Loyola University Maryland Migrates Enterprise Vault Email Archive to Office 365 with FastCollect



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Successfully migrated 4 TB of archived email from legacy Enterprise Vault archive to Office 365 with Archive360's Archive2Anwhere.
- ✓ FastCollect's Stub Re-hydration and PowerShell automation capabilities sped migration and reduced overall project cost over 30%.

INTRODUCTION

Loyola University is a Jesuit, Catholic institution anchored in Baltimore, MD. Loyola University Maryland is steeped in nearly 165 years of academic excellence, tradition, and a commitment to the liberal arts education that prepares students to explore and discover fundamental truths about the world and their place in it.

Fueling its rapid growth, Loyola University recently made the decision to move its on-premises Exchange email services, including its Enterprise Vault email archive, to the new modern Microsoft Office 365. The Enterprise Vault server held a total of 4 TBs of archive data that had to be moved.

PROJECT CHALLENGES

When organizations migrate on premises Exchange Server to Office 365, it is normal to also migrate archive data from a legacy email archive platform. Most email archive solutions store archived data in proprietary database schemas. This means there is no direct migration path between solutions. Nor do email archive solutions provide robust tools to enable the export of archived data with full data integrity and chain-of-custody.

Upon examination of the legacy Enterprise Vault Server, Loyola University's Oleg Manko, Senior Systems Engineer, discovered that the EV server was installed on an old 2003 x86 server which meant it would be especially slow and difficult to add more resources to the server. Manko stated, "Upon examination of the archive data, we had to deal with very small batches, that extended the project. We worked closely with Archive360 to schedule the archive in batches to meet our scheduling demands."

THE ARCHIVE360 APPROACH

For project assistance and direction, Manko turned to a trusted partner, NetMail. NetMail has the deep technical expertise handling email archive data that Manko required. Knowing that the Enterprise Vault server contained many "stubbed" emails, Manko knew that special skills together with a proven application would be required to re-hydrate (recombine) the messages and stubs while maintaining full chain-of-custody and 100% data integrity for legal and regulatory compliance.

"Our partner, NetMail, introduced us to Archive360. Archive360's email archive migration solution, FastCollect, allowed us to directly extract the data without needing to worry about the health state of Enterprise Vault using a new, more powerful x64 bit server. This more powerful server also allowed us to rehydrate the stubbed emails into Exchange on the fly to ensure our users have a trouble-free user experience," said Manko.

Archive360 does not rely on the EV API's; rather it connects directly to the archive SQL database for best performance and 100% data integrity. The Archive360 migration solution was installed on a virtual machine provided by Loyola University and was installed and running in less than 30 minutes. After connection was established to the EV server, several migration tests were performed to fine tune the performance and ensure data fidelity.

Managing the rehydration of the email stubs in Exchange with the archived email in the archive was a key requirement for Loyola University. Archive360 handled the process smoothly with no problems or project delays. Archive360 used its patented stub re-hydration process which process the stubs "inflight" and does not require a staging server. Full chain-of-custody is provided for each message as proof of data integrity.

PROJECT RESULTS

Email archive migrations can cause many difficulties including delays and unwanted costs. Given the proprietary nature of legacy email archives and the usually "unhealthy" condition of the archive server and storage hardware, each migration project can potentially require special knowledge and handling. Archive360 is the market leader in email archive migration software, successfully migrating more than 12 petabytes of data for more than 600 organizations worldwide since 2012.

"The Archive360 FastCollect solution performed very well and helped us to achieve our goals in a good time frame," said Manko. "Once the system was set-up it did not require any administration work. The reports were very useful and user friendly."

