

“We evaluated and tested quite a few different backup software solutions over a three year period and nothing fulfilled our needs until we tried SEP sesam.”



## Alpine School District

### Situation

Alpine School District of Utah is located in one of the fastest growing areas of Utah. An hour south of Salt Lake City, the district maintains data for over 75 schools, 8,200 staff members, 68,000 currently enrolled students and hundreds of thousands of accounts for Alpine alumni.

Alpine was relying solely on a RAID Array system to store all of their data. “We were extremely lucky that we did not lose any significant portion of our unprotected data,” says Michael Juarez, the district’s LAN Coordinator, “Alpine had replicated mission critical data and used some scripts to back up important files, but really, we had gone without any form of formal backup solution for over 16 years.”

In 2006, the Technology Director for Alpine School District, **Matt Johnson**, decided it was time to find and install a reliable backup solution and began the search.

The IT department’s staff tested backup software from every major vendor in the marketplace and nothing met their rigorous and varied requirements.

### CHALLENGE

Alpine School District utilizes Windows, Linux, NetWare, SUSE Linux and other Novell products, so they needed to find a solution that supported all these platforms as well as their GroupWise mail system and databases. They are mostly a Novell shop, consisting of 42 servers located at individual schools within the district and an additional central repository of Linux servers at the main district office. Alpine was in the process of migrating from a 5 TB storage volume to a 10 TB SAN volume.

With no formal backup solution and due to increasing financial restrictions, Alpine could not replace their server hardware as often as desired, but instead, made sure all of their servers were on maintenance contracts in the event of system failure. Therefore, the risk of a catastrophic hardware event and the chance of losing critical data was greater than ever.



# SEP Software Corp.

SEP Software Corp. is the technology leader providing standardized and high performance data availability solutions for professional IT environments of all sizes. SEP sesam and its associated products deliver seamless solutions to your backup requirements.

SEP sesam ensures that data security for virtual machine environments including data backup, restore, disaster recovery and encryption can be both easily and cost-effectively achieved. SEP's software is the ultimate expression of German engineering and attention to detail. Design and programming originate from our German offices in Weyarn, near Munich where overall performance and reliability are under our constant vigilance.

## SOLUTION

After three years of testing various products to fulfill the district's data backup needs, SEP sesam was chosen as the solution. "What appealed to us about **SEP sesam** was that it backs up everything. You can add and backup any client in seconds, as well as have the main console on any server, whether it's Linux or Windows," related **Juarez**. "The most important aspect of the software for us was the ability to back up our GroupWise mail system. Between GroupWise, a few databases and our file servers, we're almost up to 10 TB of data and we expect that to grow. That's another reason why we are choosing to continue using SEP. Now we have the capability to back up everything."

## RESULTS

Alpine has been using **SEP sesam** since 2009 and has been able to utilize **SEP sesam** to its utmost. Shortly after implementing **SEP sesam** they lost two servers. Without the new solution that data would have been lost forever. But the simple SEP Restore Wizard made data recovery possible in just a few hours. According to Michael, "It wasn't difficult for me, I actually didn't have to call tech support to restore our file server data on two different servers that went down. It was easy to do. We've lost a couple of servers and their original data, but we've been able to restore it with **SEP sesam** without any problems. It worked like a champ."

**Juarez** reported, "SEP had a number of techs specifically trained, who knew Linux inside and out, that made the transition really easy. Once we got it up and running the backups were surprisingly fast.. SEP's support staff has been very responsive and very good at resolving issues regarding system setup and utilization and helping me gain a clear understanding what has gone wrong and the methodology to correct those issues. There have been times when backups haven't worked and all I've had to do was post a question and we received an answer in just minutes. They are competent and very well trained. My weakness is SUSE Linux; they've got very strong skills and so I've pretty much had to rely on them. So, as far as tech support, they're excellent. Even from the sales side, everybody's very responsive. It's been a great fit."

Alpine will be changing licensing from Netware to either Active Directory or OpenL-DAP/ ClearOS. "I am sure **SEP sesam** has a future in that. That's one of the reasons we picked it. We can grow in any direction we choose and SEP supports everything. It just does what you expect of it," said **Juarez**.

## ABOUT ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Alpine School District is the primary school district in northern Utah County in Utah, including the cities of Lindon, Orem, Pleasant Grove, American Fork, Alpine, Highland, Lehi, Saratoga Springs, and Eagle Mountain. It includes all grades from kindergarten all through high school (K-12). As of 2011, there were 51 elementary schools, 11 junior high schools, 8 high schools, and 3 alternative schools. <http://alpineschools.org/>

