



The Computerworld Honors Program

Honoring those who use Information Technology to benefit society

Final Copy of Case Study

LOCATION:
Tinton Falls, NJ, US

ORGANIZATION:
KOM Networks

YEAR:
2011

ORGANIZATION URL:
<http://www.komnetworks.com>

STATUS:
Laureate

PROJECT NAME:
Junk-A-Juke

CATEGORY:
Environment

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Many companies are still using or holding on to end-of-life and legacy data storage equipment like optical jukeboxes, old storage servers and tape libraries. This obsolete technology generally is costly to maintain or no longer meets regulatory compliance or business requirements for protecting data assets. These systems tend to be bulky and are costly to dispose of. As a result, more than 80% end up in landfills. KOM Networks Junk-A-Juke program was developed as a solution for KOM customers who were archiving data to end-of-life optical jukeboxes. These highly regulated organizations were faced with costly compliant replacement storage solutions, long complicated implementations, costly integration with existing infrastructure, extensive training and vendor lock in with proprietary software and hardware; also less money in their budgets and fewer resources in a failing economy. The Junk-A-Juke Upgrade program allows businesses in highly regulated industries (healthcare, government, education, finance, insurance, manufacturing) an opportunity to trade in their obsolete and legacy archive data storage devices and receive a tamperproof KOMpliance Archive Storage solution built on the latest high performance standard enterprise class servers for FREE with a 3 yr maintenance agreement. KOM Networks working in conjunction with TCG Recycling collects the old systems, breaks them down and reuses the components or raw materials assuring that nothing ends up in a landfill. The money raised from the reuse of materials is donated to help fight hunger (15 million kids die every year of starvation) through Feed The Children US (www.feedthechildren.org) and FTC Canada (www.ftccanada.ca). Businesses of any size can take advantage and they are not limited to data storage devices; they can get rid of all their old electronic equipment with the trade in program.

SOCIETAL BENEFITS

It responsibly disposes of an organizations electronic waste keeping harmful material from polluting our environment. It conserves natural resources by recovering usable materials to make new products. The money generated



from the recycling of electronic components or raw materials is used to feed hungry kids.

PROJECT BENEFIT EXAMPLE

Angel Medical Center, a not-for-profit critical access hospital in Franklin, NC, had been storing its HCIS data on a 10 year old optical jukebox. This old technology was not keeping up with storage demand, was end-of-life, costly, resource intensive and problematic to maintain. Angel Medical Center was the first healthcare facility to take advantage of the Junk-A-Juke Upgrade program and received a free KOMpliance Archive Storage solution to replace their obsolete jukebox. Their old jukebox along with other end-of-life electronic equipment was picked up and recycled generating enough money to provide more than 2600 meals to hungry kids. Angel Medical Center not only achieved a significant cost saving, they easily exceeded HIPAA requirements for archive storage, protection and long term retention of data. They cut data retrieval time from minutes to seconds. They found a compliant storage solution for their PACS system and implemented a comprehensive disaster recovery solution. York Hospital located in Southern Maine achieved cost savings of \$230K by junking their EMC Centera and switching to KOMpliance taking advantage of the Junk-A-Juke Upgrade program. Their combination of budgetary constraints and increased data storage requirements forced them to look at an alternative method of storing and maintaining the integrity of protected data that didn't require an additional investment in expensive EMC storage and maintenance contracts. By leveraging their existing storage infrastructure and implementing the KOMpliance Archive Storage solution as part of the Junk-A-Juke Upgrade Program, they achieved significant savings and it is expected that the recycling of the Centera, when completed, will feed hundreds of kids whose families are struggling to make ends meet in this current economic crisis. "We were able to maintain HIPAA compliance, create a functional DR plan, and also meet our financial goals. The Junk-A-Juke program has been a positive experience." ~ Kevin Foster, York Hospital "KOM Networks is well known to us for providing superior support as we struggled with our old optical jukebox. Their Junk-A-Juke upgrade program allowed us to replace old technology with a new high performance, hard-disk based WORM solution without effort or capital expenditure. They saved us the worry and cost of equipment disposal with responsible recycling and the proceeds went to a worthy cause". ~Mike Miller, director of information technology, Mecosta County Medical Center "Thanks to KOM's Junk-A-Juke program we were able to upgrade our old archiving system with a much faster higher capacity unit that is hassle free. On top of all that we were able to get rid of years worth of old broken equipment and with their help get that material recycled and kept out of the landfills. As an added bonus the money from the recycling went to feed some people in need. It has been an awesome program!" ~Nathan Bartnicki, MCSE, Memorial Hospital.

IS THIS PROJECT AN INNOVATION, BEST PRACTICE? Yes

ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Global donations went to Haiti after the earthquake and US donations went to the Gulf Coast after the oil spill.