

# School Board Protects Student Information System, Develops Cloud DR Strategy and Saves \$70,000 Annually



Zycom, HostedBizz and Veeam help us protect the information that drives instructional decision-making in our district, engages families in the learning process and fuels business operations. We know our SIS is available nonstop.

— Mike Legros  
Systems Integrator  
Limestone District School Board

## The Business Challenge

The Limestone District School Board creates dynamic and diverse educational environments that prepare students to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

Technology helps the school board cultivate these educational environments. A student information system (SIS) is a prime example. An SIS serves as the hub for all student data including grades, transcripts and attendance. Educators track this data so they can identify when a student is at risk of failing or dropping out of school.

The SIS provides a comprehensive approach to managing the lifecycle of a student's education from enrollment to graduation, including special and adult education. The SIS is tightly tied to district business too, including enrolment, registration and scheduling. It keeps constant track of Limestone's 19,000 students.

"Think of our SIS in the same way you think of an ERP system," said Mike Legros, Systems Integrator for the Limestone District School Board. "Our SIS automates processes for our district just like an ERP system automates processes for a business. In both cases, data is king. If we lose data, our district could literally come to a standstill."

To avoid data loss, the IT team sought advice from Zycom Technology, a leading IT solution provider.

"Zycom understands our SIS is irreplaceable," Legros said. "If we lose data, we could lose vital information concerning a student's registration, personal information and achievement. In addition, we would lose access to vital information regarding a student's special needs such as like learning, medical and custody issues. Data loss has the potential to immobilize our district and limit the board's ability to support the needs of our students."

### Industry

Education

### Organization



The Limestone District School Board shapes the learners of today into the leaders of tomorrow. The school board works with educators, staff, families, volunteers, trustees and the community to support the achievement and wellbeing of more than 19,000 students in 57 schools and 5 education centers, covering 7,719 square kilometres of Eastern Ontario, Canada.

## The Veeam Solution

Zycom devised the ideal data availability solution for the Limestone District School Board. The school board replaced legacy backup with Veeam® Availability Suite™ and incorporated its first cloud strategy for disaster recovery (DR).

Veeam backs up 120 VMware vSphere virtual machines (30 TB) on-premises and replicates them to HostedBizz's secure, private cloud. HostedBizz is Zycom's partner in helping organizations optimize their IT infrastructures and reduce costs.

"Zycom, HostedBizz and Veeam help us protect the information that drives instructional decision-making in our district, engages students and families in the learning process and fuels business operations," Legros said. "We know our SIS is available nonstop."

Zycom, HostedBizz and Veeam also enabled the district to develop its first DR strategy using cloud technology.

"If our data centre burned to the ground, we know we can fail over to the cloud and resume operations quickly," Legros said. "This is the first time we've had this level of business continuity, and we're saving money too."

Every school board strives to be a good steward of taxpayers' money. Zycom, HostedBizz and Veeam eliminated the need to spend an additional \$70,000 each year with the incumbent vendor. Legros said the board is considering ways to maximize this savings. Possibilities include a network upgrade and technology that enhances the classroom experience.

"Our district is focused on innovative teaching and learning," Legros said. "Zycom, HostedBizz and Veeam help us create a collaborative environment for teachers, students and families."

### Challenge

Data speaks volumes in education. It provides a snapshot of what students know, what they should know and what can be done to meet their academic needs. This data is part of a student information system that improves collaboration among teachers, gives families insight into their children's academic development and drives the business side of the district. A student information system is a guiding force for school boards, but only if data is protected and available nonstop.

### Solution

Zycom, HostedBizz and Veeam

### Results

- Eliminates the risk of data loss in the student information system
- Enables the first cloud strategy for disaster recovery and business continuity
- Avoided \$70,00 in additional costs with the incumbent backup solution

## The Results

- Eliminates the risk of data loss in the student information system**  
 Zycom, HostedBizz and Veeam help the Limestone District School Board protect the information that drives educational instruction, involves families in the learning process and fuels business processes.
- Enables the first cloud strategy for disaster recovery and business continuity**  
 Zycom, HostedBizz and Veeam helped the school board develop a cloud strategy that ensures educators can continue to manage data, maximize student success and communicate with families in the event of a data centre disaster.
- Reduces IT costs by 70 percent, saving \$70,000 each year**  
 The Limestone District School Board is diligent about making sure taxpayers' money is spent smartly. Zycom, HostedBizz and Veeam delivered an IT savings of \$70,000 annually, which the school board will use to improve technology across the district.

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### About Veeam Software

Veeam is the global leader in Intelligent Data Management for the Hyper-Available Enterprise. Veeam Hyper-Availability Platform is the most complete solution to help customers on the journey to automating data management and ensuring the Hyper-Availability of data.

### About Zycom Technology



Zycom is one of Canada's premier technology solution providers. Zycom helps organisations evolve from managing and maintaining their existing IT infrastructures to focusing solely on business growth through innovation.

### About HostedBizz



HostedBizz is a cloud infrastructure-as-a-service provider for IT resellers, including Zycom. HostedBizz removes the burden of technology management for organisations and reduces the cost of ownership to a predictable monthly expense, turning technology costs into investments.

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