

WOMAN'S HOSPITAL

WOMAN'S HOSPITAL SAVES TIME AND MONEY WITH IDERA

OVERVIEW

Woman's Hospital is one of the first women's specialty hospitals in the nation, and is currently one of the largest in the United States. Its main campus is located in Baton Rouge, LA, which includes the Center for Wellness, Child Development Center, Business and Technology Center, Graphic Services/Print Shop, Health Clinics and mobile mammography services. For the past seven years, Woman's has been named one of Modern Healthcare magazine's Top 100 Best Places to Work in Healthcare.

Woman's employs more than 2,000 full-time, part-time, contract and PRN employees. As the hospital has grown through time, so has its datacenter. In total, Woman's has 483 databases across 76 installations of SQL Server ranging from small size (1 MB) to large scale (500 GB) with a total footprint of 9.5 TB of data being managed by only one full-time database administrator (DBA).

The role of database administrator at Woman's Hospital is to install SQL Server per accepted best practices, implement proper maintenance, evaluate performance, and consult with various departments on upcoming plans and implementations.

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Industry Healthcare

Headquarters Baton Rouge, LA

Website www.womans.org

CHALLENGE

Woman's Hospital faced two major challenges with their growing database sizes. One was the standard practice of backup and recovery of data to or from local drives, and archiving data into local tape drives, an issue where extended backup windows tend to slow down response times from an application. Large (200+ GB) databases were taking more than 5 hours to complete the backup process and another 4 to 5 hours to get the files to tape. In addition, the sizes of uncompressed backups were maxing out Woman's tape archive system.

"We had more data than it could handle," observed Robert Bishop, Database Administrator at Woman's Hospital. Performance was also a big concern for Woman's data repository system. As data from medical documentation grew to more than 400 GB of data with 100s of millions of rows, it became challenging to store, let alone create "real-time" reports on a patient.

We had more data than [our system] could handle

Robert Bishop **Database Administrator**



SOLUTION

To address these challenges, Woman's Hospital sought a solution to provide data compression and reduce backup windows, while improving the performance of storage procedures. "IDERA was my product of choice based on their reputation, ease of use and my familiarity with the company. And when it came to cost, they were usually the winner," said Bishop.

Bishop selected IDERA SQL Safe Backup to maximize Woman's backup file compression: "SQL Safe Backup allowed me to provide backup compression on SQL instances where compression was not an option, and directly backup to a single network share for ease of archiving to tape."

Woman's Hospital also purchased IDERA SQL Doctor to overcome performance issues with growing data and to change their approach to writing stored procedures. With the query performance analyzer in SQL Doctor they were able to get a quick and easy glance at all issues that are normally not considered "best practices." "The fact that it provides a one-stop glance at common T-SQL mistakes is part of the benefit of the application. I don't have to execute DMV query after DMV query against different databases to find the problems," said Bishop.

BENEFITS

By utilizing SQL Safe Backup, on only five of its 76 SQL servers, Woman's Hospital has been able to save almost 1 TB a day in storage space and cut average backup time by a third.

"Using a very conservative estimate of \$0.50 per GB, that saves me \$404,944 per year (or almost half a million dollars) and that's on less than 10 percent of my servers," said Bishop. "In the future, I hope to expand our use of SQL Safe Backup to other larger SQL Servers to reduce backup storage requirements, shorten backup windows, and save even more money on storage costs."

In addition, SQL Doctor has allowed Women's Hospital to identify common problems within specific stored procedures that can be a performance hindrance in T-SQL. "The best thing about IDERA products is the simplicity and ease of use, but most importantly the simple fact that they work perfectly," Bishop concluded.

The best thing about IDERA products
is the simplicity and ease of use, but most importantly
the simple fact that they work perfectly



SQL Safe Backup

AUTOMATE SQL SERVER BACKUP ACROSS YOUR ENTERPRISE

- Backup faster and save space via dynamic compression with encryption
- Choose from multiple options for recovery
- Ensure organizational compliance via policy-based management
- Reduce failures due to temporary network problems
- Receive alerts and create reports with centralized web console

Start for FREE

The screenshot displays the IDERA SQL Safe Backup web console. The interface includes a navigation menu with options like HOME, POLICIES, OPERATION HISTORY, INSTANCES, DATABASES, SQL SAFE AGENTS, VIRTUAL DATABASE, and ADMINISTRATION. A top navigation bar shows the user 'konoha administrator' and links for Administration and Help. The main content area features several sections:

- Alerts:** A section titled 'YOU HAVE 23 ALERTS' with buttons for 'Export' and 'Hide alerts'. It lists four alerts with levels (2 and 3) and descriptions such as '5 databases never backed up' and 'Last backup operation for 15 databases succeeded'.
- TOP DATABASES BY SIZE (MB):** A horizontal bar chart showing database sizes for ContosoRetail, AdventureWo..., and Northwind.
- LONGEST RUNNING BACKUPS BY DATABASE (MINUTES):** A horizontal bar chart showing backup durations for ContosoRetail and AdventureWo....
- My Environment:** A summary table of system components and their counts.
- Status Details:** A summary of policy and operation statuses.
- Disk Space Savings:** A table showing disk space usage and savings over time.

At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Add instance', 'Create policy', 'Backup', and 'Restore'.

Component	Count
Managed Instances	3
Not-contacted Instances	0
Not-contacted Backup Agents	0
Databases	21
Databases with failed backup	0
Databases with failed restore	0
Backup Policies	1
Restore Policies	0
Log Shipping Policies	0

Category	Count
Policies OK	1
Policies Not OK	0
Operations Successful	15
Operations Failed	0

Time Period	Usage	Percentage
Today:	772 MB	51%
This Month:	1944 MB	48%
This Year:	1944 MB	48%
Total:	1944 MB	48%
ROI:		1.9 \$