Office of Physical Plant at Pennsylvania State University recently implemented Micro Focus® GroupWise® Disaster Recovery for purposes of hot backups, quick restore, and push-button disaster recovery of the GroupWise system.

Overview
The Office of Physical Plant (OPP) is a “support business,” which exists in order to enable The Pennsylvania State University to accomplish its threefold mission of teaching, research, and service. The OPP uses GroupWise as its enterprise email platform, which has two post offices and 1,400 users between them.

Challenge
A key role for the IT department is preventing data loss and providing system recovery in disaster situations. Initially, the department did this by creating a backup using a third-party, snapshot style solution. While this did the job, backups took more than 24 hours and were very time and labor-intensive. This is typical of third-party solutions with mailboxes of this size—they can be extremely difficult to back up. In order to save time, money, and hassle, the OPP implemented GroupWise Disaster Recovery by Micro Focus, a solution specifically designed for GroupWise.

Solution
GroupWise Disaster Recovery is the fastest backup and disaster recovery tool available for GroupWise. It delivers quick message restore as well as hot backups of post offices and domains, ensuring that critical data is always current and available. It was built for GroupWise, using features such as Micro Focus’ “Smart Purge,” which ensures that no email message is purged until a backup has been made. It handles larger mailboxes using single instance storage, which stores only one copy of an email or attachment, keeping storage costs low.

The software works using a collector/server model, which can install a Collector on the Linux server that houses the GroupWise Post Office or Domain. The GroupWise Disaster Recovery Collector then gathers the contents of a GroupWise post office OFUSER and OFSMG directory into a staging area on the local GroupWise server. RSYNC technology is used to replicate the contents of the post office.

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JOE LASKOWSKI
GroupWise Administrator
Pennsylvania State University

At a Glance
- Industry: Education
- Location: United States
- Challenge: The office needed to move away from long, labor-intensive backups.
- Solution: Use GroupWise Disaster Recovery for quick message restore and hot backups of post offices and domains.
- Results:
  + Cut backup times by 80–90%
  + Provided an instant ROI when the solution recovered lost personal address books
  + Allowed IT to focus more time on other projects
“Reload (now GroupWise Disaster Recovery) is like an insurance policy for your GroupWise system.”

JOE LASKOWSKI
GroupWise Administrator
Pennsylvania State University

Results
The solution provided an instant ROI when, within a couple of weeks of implementing GroupWise Disaster Recovery, a user lost their GroupWise personal address books. In a matter of a few minutes, the GroupWise Administrator, Joe Laskowski, was able to restore the user’s GroupWise personal address books. Joe, who has, with reason, become a big fan of GroupWise, explained, “Reload (now GroupWise Disaster Recovery) has cut our backup times by 80–90%. I no longer have to cringe when users call to have messages or address books restored. It’s now a few clicks and done, instead of never having enough disk space to restore our entire post office. Reload is like an insurance policy for your GroupWise system.” As GroupWise administrator, as well as Network & Information Systems Manager, the software has allowed Laskowski to focus more time on other projects, and less time in GroupWise disaster recovery.

About Micro Focus
Micro Focus is a global software company with 40 years of experience in delivering and supporting enterprise software solutions that help customers innovate faster with lower risk.

By applying proven expertise in software and security, we enable customers to utilize new technology solutions while maximizing the value of their investments in critical IT infrastructure and business applications. As a result, they can build, operate, and secure the IT systems that bring together existing business logic and applications with emerging technologies—in essence, bridging the old and the new—to meet their increasingly complex business demands.