Case study

# Tacoma YMCA upgrades to hyper-converged environment with near-zero downtime

**CARBONITE**

When the IT team at the YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties in Tacoma, Washington needed to retire and replace most of its physical servers, downtime was not an option.

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The Y stays open seven days a week, and we're only closed two days out of the year, so even trying to work an upgrade around a holiday was a non-starter. A lot of people base their schedules around YMCA programs. Closing would impact the entire community. It's just not something we would do.

- Francisco Rivera
Senior System Engineer
YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties

## Why the YMCA wanted an upgrade

Rivera and his team were struggling to maintain DFS synchronization between multiple physical servers scattered throughout 11 branch offices. Unreliable performance across servers meant frequent travel to fix branch office issues. This prompted Rivera to look for a centralized system that the YMCA could grow with.

He decided to upgrade to a Nutanix Acropolis cluster to reap the benefits of a hyper-converged infrastructure. "Hyper-convergence is very modular and is designed to improve its performance as it scales, which is the opposite of how a SAN or NAS solution works," says Rivera. Additionally, by centralizing all of his team's data in a Nutanix cluster, Rivera would be better equipped to implement a high availability solution.

"It's so much easier to implement a good high availability solution when you have a central copy of your data."

– Francisco Rivera

**Organization name:**
YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties

**Founded:**
1968

**Employees:**
500

**Industry:**
Non-Profit, Health and Fitness

**Technology environment:**
Nutanix Hypervisor

**Technologies:**
Carbonite Migrate, Nutanix Hypervisor, Microsoft Windows servers and computers

**Implementation team IT:**
YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties 7-person IT team, Carbonite customer support

**Results:**
YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties used Carbonite Migrate to upgrade their server environment and move data on 11 physical and 15 Hyper-V servers to a central Nutanix Hypervisor with minimal downtime

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## The ROI of a minimal-downtime upgrade

In order to deploy the Nutanix system, Rivera and his team first had to design a migration plan that wouldn't take any servers or users offline. "We evaluated a lot of migration tools and most of them had the Achilles heel of requiring significant downtime," says Rivera. He knew he could complete the migration in fewer total hours with an offline migration tool, but his team valued uninterrupted production over speed. The cost of downtime was just too high.

"If you stop to think about what it costs to take your environment out of production for even a single day, it quickly dwarfs the cost of a migration tool that allows you to stay up and running in the process."

– Francisco Rivera

Rivera chose Carbonite Migrate because he had success with the product at a previous job and liked that it could sync and migrate data while in production without impacting users. "Based on my product research, Carbonite Migrate was the only viable low-impact option for synching data on the fly," says Rivera.

Using Carbonite Migrate, Rivera and his team upgraded the YMCA's server environment over the course of 3 weeks without impacting users or taking servers offline for more than a few minutes.

Upgrading from physical servers to a Nutanix cluster had an immediate positive impact on the efficiency of the YMCA. The upgrade allowed them to eliminate DFS, it stabilized the environment, and it eliminated a lot of hardware licensing and maintenance costs.

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> *In the course of single year, this upgrade has easily saved us $25,000. For a small non-profit organization like us, that's a big deal. The success of this upgrade project has energized our executive team to look for additional ways to use technology to make our organization more productive and save money.*
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> *— Francisco Rivera*