



# sweet valley solutions

Your partner in success

Data Storage Data M  
Data Storage Data Man  
Networks Servers / W  
Archiving  
Archiving  
Data Storage Data Man

## Case Study: University Of Sussex

### Solving the challenges of continuous data growth with investment protection and simplified data management

- Storage Area Network (SAN)
- R/Evolution architecture provides flexibility
- Environmentally friendly EcoStor technology
- Unique Data-In-Place Migration
- Designed for investment protection

Situated four miles from Brighton, Sussex University is the only university in England to be located within an Area of Outstanding Beauty; the South Downs. The first of a new wave of British Universities founded in the 1960s, Sussex received its Royal Charter in 1961, and since then has become a leading teaching and research institution. The university is ranked within the top 30 in the UK.

Currently the university has nearly 12,500 students and a staff of over 3,000 in an intimate cluster of schools near the small village of Falmer.

Having expanded the number of users to over 15,000, the Department of IT Services was increasingly aware that its mail system was approaching the limits of its capability. James Goodlet, Head of Infrastructure Services, initiated a university-wide review of requirements with the objective of instating a robust, scaleable mail solution. It quickly became apparent, however, that economies of scale could be achieved by simultaneously undertaking a global review of data management across the university. A detailed specification of requirements was drawn up and companies were invited to tender for the delivery of a cost-effective, resilient, high-availability data storage solution.

James Goodlet, Head of Infrastructure Services, University of Sussex comments,

“We knew in broad terms that we needed a Storage Area Network that would enable us to consolidate and manage storage throughout the university. The real challenge would be finding a technology partner that could address our unique requirements and build an optimal solution within our budget.

Sweet Valley Solutions, who have a long-standing relationship with the university, had recently implemented a smaller scale SAN than the one we required. This proved a useful reference point for us in evaluating what they could do. They fulfilled the requirements of the tender and their reputation was outstanding. It was an easy decision to work with them.”

Sweet Valley Solutions decided that Dot Hill Systems would be their partner-of-choice for the project.

As Andrew Gladstone, Managing Director of Sweet Valley Solutions asserts,

“Having partnered with Dot Hill since their early days, we knew their products had proven reliable, were cost-effective and that their support levels were excellent.”



Approved Storage Provider



Sweet Valley Solutions Ltd.  
13 Years Of Excellence 1995-2008  
A Quality Company  
ISO 9001:2000 Registered





# sweet valley solutions

*Your partner in success*

Data Storage Data M  
Data Storage Data Man  
Networks Servers / W  
Archiving  
Archiving  
Data Storage Data Man

## About Sweet Valley Solutions

Founded in 1994, Sweet Valley Solutions has established itself as a trusted partner in the provision of highly specialised, bespoke and industry standard information technology products and services.

Sweet Valley Solutions comprises a dedicated team with a wealth of industry skill and experience, equipped to deal with even the most complex of today's information technology challenges. Partnerships with market leaders have enabled Sweet Valley Solutions to successfully deliver resilient, cost effective and supported solutions to an impressive customer base. Our clients include large FTSE 100 blue chip corporates, research and defence institutions, universities and government.

## About Dot Hill Systems

Dot Hill's RAID technology is the foundation for best-in-class storage solutions offering enterprise-class, availability and data protection. The company's products are in use today by the world's leading service and equipment providers, advanced technology and telecommunications companies as well as government agencies. Dot Hill solutions are certified to meet rigorous industry standards and military specifications, as well as international environmental standards.

The initial objective was to migrate from a distributed storage infrastructure involving predominantly Direct Attached Storage (DAS), to a centralised Storage Area Network which could be managed as a single logical entity. The chosen solution comprised the installation of a network of Dot Hill SANNet RAID arrays with a fibre channel switch infrastructure. FalconStor IPStor was the software selected to offer single-console control, manage data replication and enable easy partitioning and provisioning of storage to individual departments.

A key requirement of the chosen solution was that it could easily evolve to keep in step with the university's growing data requirements. Sweet Valley Solutions provided the enhancements to increase the scale and scope of the SAN over time. From the original 365GB commissioned at the start of the project, to almost 100TB capacity within the SAN today, as user requirements continue to drive growth, IT Services can simply bring additional drives on line.

The SAN fabric has evolved, too. The original SANNet I storage units were augmented with SANNet II and only recently redeployed after five years of life. In 2006, the university added the latest generation V2 R9002 arrays. These set the industry standard for investment protection with the unique R/Evolution modular system architecture. This enables Data-In-Place Migration from the V2 9002 to future generation models without disruption to the existing data storage infrastructure or host software applications.

The solution also presents environmental benefits. The university is committed to sustainable energy futures. The V2 R9002 series supports this path through it's unique EcoStor™ technology which eliminates the use of batteries to support the RAID cache in the event of a power failure. This not only protects the environment from battery disposal but also removes the service cost of battery replacement and provides infinite data protection regardless of the duration of any power outage.

Today, storage is leased by IT Services to individual departments or staff on a £ per GB basis, a model now being adopted in many educational establishments.

The university's data storage demands change on a daily basis. With the solution provided by Sweet Valley Solutions and Dot Hill, allocating storage to individual departments is simple. Users can specify the category of storage they need, either high capacity SATA or high performance SAS as and when they need it. It's a solution that works for everyone.

"Sweet Valley Solutions' fulfilled the requirements of the tender and their reputation was outstanding. It was an easy decision to work with them."

James Goodlet  
Head of Infrastructure Services, University of Sussex