



FROM UNCERTAINTY TO RESILIENCE

How an Engineering Firm Secured Its Data
with Attentus Backup & Disaster Recovery



How clear recovery policies, hybrid backups, and cloud protection eliminated uncertainty around data loss and business continuity.

Executive Summary

A multi-state civil engineering consulting firm whose operations relied on access to digital project files, engineering drawings, and financial systems faced a troubling reality regarding its backups.

The company's leadership couldn't definitively say which data was being backed up, where it was stored, or whether they could fully restore it if the primary source were compromised. There was also no defined recovery timeline, data retention policy, or tested business continuity plan.

On this backdrop, leadership tapped Attentus to help improve the firm's resilience. We conducted a full analysis of existing technology and policies, and then implemented a more reliable backup and disaster recovery architecture.

Today, the firm operates with documented processes and tested backups stored both on-premises and off-site. Leadership is assured that they can quickly restore systems should any eventuality arise.

About the Client

Our client was a leading firm licensed to provide civil, structural, and land planning consulting services across 12 states.

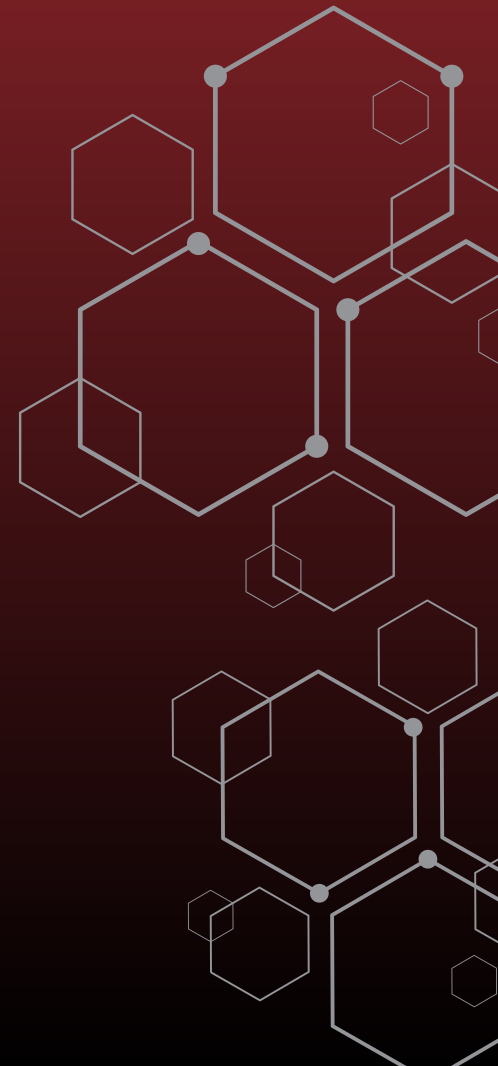
The company's projects spanned multiple industries, but mainly included:

- **Schools, churches, and commercial buildings.**
- **Retail and industrial construction.**
- **Residential and multifamily housing.**
- **Government and public works projects.**
- **Telecom infrastructure, such as data centers and wireless installations.**

In the modern age, such an operational profile means that the company handles vast amounts of digital data daily.

Everything from CAD (computer-aided design) drawings and project specifications to modeling files must be accessible and protected 24/7.

Losing these data assets, even temporarily, can result in lost billable hours, delayed project timelines, broken client commitments, and potential regulatory exposure.



The Problem: Backup Uncertainty

Leadership Didn't Know If Their Backups Worked

When the client approached Attentus, a few things regarding their data remained a mystery. For instance, what systems were actually being backed up? Where were those backups stored? And were they even usable in an emergency?

Without clear answers to these questions, the firm's leadership was uncertain if they could weather a natural disaster, human error, cyberattack, system failure, or any other incident affecting their data.

There Was No Documented Recovery Strategy.

Another problem was that nobody had ever defined the data retention requirements, recovery timelines, or acceptable downtime thresholds.

Without these policies, the firm's management could not accurately estimate financial exposure from downtime or the tolerance for data loss. Recovery expectations during a disaster also remained largely unclear.

The Business Impact of Poor Backup Strategy

In the engineering industry, data protection and business continuity go hand in hand.

Simply losing design files because they weren't properly backed up can trigger a chain of events that leave lasting damage. For instance, engineers may have to rework the designs from scratch.

This pivot will obviously affect delivery timelines and potentially cause some missed deadlines, straining your relationship with customers. In addition, you face potential contractual penalties and regulatory exposure. That's why our client wasn't going to leave anything to chance.

The Attentus Approach

Phase #1: Technology and Policy Assessment

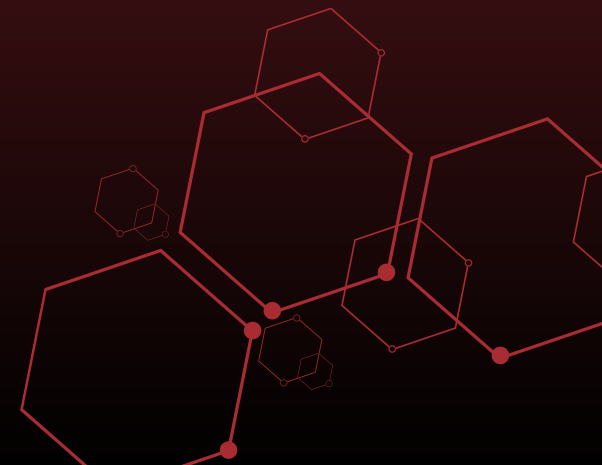
Our experts began by analyzing the client's existing I.T. infrastructure, backup systems, storage locations, and recovery policies to identify gaps in both technology and governance.

Our findings revealed that the lack of a defined backup strategy was the pre-eminent issue.

Phase #2: Backup Strategy Design

Once we discovered the root cause of the issue, we communicated it to the firm's leadership, explained their options, and then helped them design a reliable backup framework to manage their business risk.

Together, we evaluated what storage option was most suitable, clarified recovery priorities, established retention policies, and defined the recovery expectations.



Phase #3: Hybrid Backup Implementation

Attentus deployed a high-reliability hybrid system with local and off-site storage.

The local backups facilitate rapid recovery, while the off-site backups provide redundancy in the event of a disaster at the primary facility.

Phase #4: User Data Protection with OneDrive

To protect individual workstations and engineer files across the organization, Attentus implemented user folder redirection to Microsoft OneDrive.

Now, all files the firm's engineers create or modify automatically sync to the cloud, ensuring they don't lose any work when a device fails.

Phase #5: Office 365 Cloud Backup

In this final stage, Attentus implemented dedicated backup for Office 365 to ensure email, SharePoint files, Teams data, and office documents are recoverable beyond Microsoft's native retention limits.

The Results

The engineering firm now operates with the visibility, control, and confidence that comes from a comprehensive backup and disaster recovery strategy.

Protected Data

Critical engineering files, financial systems, project documentation, and communications are securely backed up and protected across on-site and off-site storage.

Reliable Recovery

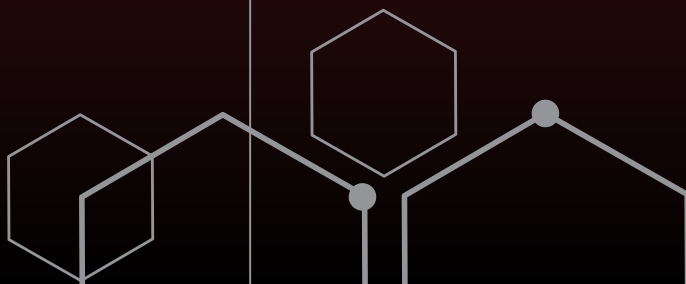
In the unlikely event of a disaster, systems can be restored, and business operations can resume quickly. The organization no longer faces the paralyzing question of whether data is actually recoverable.

Documented Recovery Plan

Executives now have clear written documentation that explains exactly which data is backed up, where it is stored, and how recovery works. This clarity is nearly as valuable as the technology we implemented.

Executive Confidence

Leadership now understands their actual risk exposure, their recovery strategy, and their business continuity plan. And that has created true operational peace of mind.



Industry Insight: Why Backup Strategy Fails in Many Businesses

Many companies believe they are protected simply because they have backups. Few actually test that assumption.

According to Unitrends' 2025 report on the state of backups and recovery strategies, 85% of businesses don't test their backups daily.

Meanwhile, 35% wouldn't know if they missed a backup until it was too late.

Do you know for sure:

- Whether you can actually restore your data?
- How long the recovery will take?
- What data could be lost?
- If your cloud data is protected?

Unless you can confidently answer these questions, you don't have a disaster recovery strategy. You just have backups. Attentus can help you become more resilient.

Protect Your Business Before Crisis Demands Action

Do you know exactly how your business would recover from a disaster?

Protect your data with Attentus before a failure forces the conversation.

Attentus is a leading technology consulting firm that supports Seattle businesses with hands-on expertise. We help you build a reliable backup and data disaster recovery strategy with built-in business risk management.

About Us

We care about our customers and we make your business our business. As the leading provider of I.T. services in Bellevue and Seattle, we focus on making I.T. simple, not scary. We provide friendly, hands-on support 24/7.

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