When Bruno Guibert joined the University, there was already a backup solution in place, but it was not performing satisfactorily. There were difficulties expanding when a science laboratory had a new project that needed new IT infrastructure with additional data security. Technicians could not install the components needed for backup. They had to obtain licenses first, through a lengthy budget and ordering processes. Costs rose constantly, becoming unbearable for the university budget. As a consequence, some projects were running months behind schedule, since it was impossible to start work without a fully functional backup solution in place. Moving the data centers from physical servers to virtual servers became complicated.

The University

Savoie-Mont Blanc University is a public institution that teaches a wide range of subjects, from foreign languages to IT, and from law to business management to social and natural sciences. The university has four separate campuses, 1,200 employees and lecturers, and 13,000 students. In addition to teaching, there are 19 research laboratories, four of which are graded as excellent. Its IT department is part of Grenoble Academy’s joint IT service for the university.

The challenges

When Bruno Guibert joined the University, there was already a backup solution in place, but it was not performing satisfactorily. There were difficulties expanding when a science laboratory had a new project that needed new IT infrastructure with additional data security. Technicians could not install the components needed for backup. They had to obtain licenses first, through a lengthy budget and ordering processes. Costs rose constantly, becoming unbearable for the university budget. As a consequence, some projects were running months behind schedule, since it was impossible to start work without a fully functional backup solution in place. Moving the data centers from physical servers to virtual servers became complicated.

The solution

Tina was chosen for its comprehensive technical package and ease of deployment. The University took advantage of simplified software key management under the Atempo Campus license. The team was able to augment the number of secured systems, and backup retention times were increased from three to four weeks. With its easy administration, it can manage physical Windows, Linux and Solaris servers plus all virtual servers running under VMware on three physical servers with SAN storages.
Managing a single, unified system means Administrators are more efficient. For additional data security in the event of disaster, the backup backend storage is replicated between two university sites. Each site stores a total volume of 110 TB. With Tina’s deduplication engine, this stored volume was reduced to just 14 TB, providing real savings on the storage investments.

The USBM shares infrastructure and technology with other universities in the Academy. For example, the Alfresco Enterprise Content Management software, and the Zimbra mail service with its 60,000 mailboxes, are hosted by SIMSU and protected by Tina.

**The benefits**

Tina’s efficiency is demonstrated daily through simple tasks such as restoring mailboxes or files and for more serious incidents. For instance, several servers and workstations were hacked by the CBT-locker Ransomware which encrypted and locked all files. Without paying a cent in ransom payment, the IT team was able to restore the servers and workstations in record time.

“New projects are created during the year by the science laboratories and teaching departments. For each project, the IT department ascertains how many servers are needed, and the data capacity involved. Being able to adapt our systems and provide secure backup services is vital. Tina is an effective, flexible solution that gives us the means to effectively deal with this critical and sensitive issue.”

Bruno Guibert, Director of Information Systems, University of Savoie-Mont Blanc