

Selecting the Correct Data Security Partner

from ACS Technologies

Churches amass considerable amounts of data, including attendance records, membership rolls, visitor addresses, vendor relationships, giving patterns, sermon audio files, capital campaign data – even lists of cemetery plots on church property. If the worst happens and this important information is lost, churches need to know they can rely on a data security partner that will help restore the church's data and their peace of mind. The following article has been excerpted from the ACS ministry guide [How Secure Is Your Vital Information](#).

Meeting Your Data Security Needs

Churches need to assess what kind of data partner they are looking for. When it comes to data security, great care should be taken when selecting a partner. Choose one that:

- Understands the specific needs of ministry organizations
- Offers flexible backup options
- Ensures data privacy
- Offers an easy-to-use interface
- Provides excellent customer service

Understanding Your Needs

Many software solutions are available, including those offered by large, big name companies that can provide many options. While these companies are popular mainstream options, churches and other ministries have unique needs that these companies are not familiar with. For a better understanding of the company's management direction, and to gain insight into how they aim to help clients, try to attend user conferences or training sessions whenever possible to determine if their objectives mesh with the objectives of the church.

Flexible Options

Ask prospective partners if both manual and automatic backups are allowed. Tests of the restoration feature should be allowed on alternate folders so the church gains confidence in the partner company and its software. Any company the church chooses to

collaborate with should have a track record of great customer service. Ask for a list of similar ministries that have used the company's services with success.

Ensuring Data Privacy

Demand a privacy policy and information that clearly spells out the company's privacy policies. Check to ensure the company will not share the church's name, contact information, or files with any third parties.

Easy-To-Use Interface

The last thing organizations want when attempting to restore data is to try to figure out how to use the program. Get to know the program well for easier navigation when it really counts. Give the security provider feedback when answers are not easily obtainable through their support department or on the Web. This feedback helps the company improve their Knowledge Base and Help files. Make sure the provider has support methods that fit the church's specific needs.

Excellent Customer Service

When evaluating a security partner, assess the following carefully:

- Is the company accessible 24/7?
- Can support answer questions quickly and knowledgeably?
- Is the latest product support information to meet readily available?

Keep It Simple

Churches are adapting to the demands of today's growing information handling requirements by choosing data security solutions that help them simplify – not complicate – their efforts. While tapes, CDs, and DVDs can keep the task of backing up data “under tighter control” because one person in the church administers it, the ongoing administration and maintenance of the system can become cumbersome.

The responsibility of data security can also become “one person's job,” which makes ministries vulnerable. Adopting a ministry-wide data security strategy is the first step to ensuring data is kept safe. The other key to data security is choosing a partner that understands the organization's needs, can provide flexible backup options, ensures data privacy, and offers a user interface that is simple to understand and streamlined.

Consider how scheduled backups to remote servers over the Internet can reduce administrative time and decrease the amount of resources spent on performing manual data security. In the event of a virus attack, natural disaster, or accidental keystroke, restoring vital ministry information is easily accomplished through a reliable data security partner.

For more information about how ACS Technologies can meet the data security needs of faith-based organizations, download the ACS ministry guide [How Secure Is Your Vital Information](#), email betty@acstechnologies.com, or call 800-736-7425.

About ACS Technologies

Since 1978, ACS Technologies (www.acstechnologies.com) has been at the forefront of the faith-based information management industry. In addition to its flagship application ACS, the company has developed a robust product line that offers integrated solutions for managing finances, membership, school data, church growth, Web sites, and much more. ACS Technologies' mission is simple and focused – to empower clients with specially designed software solutions to meet their everyday ministry needs.

**IS STEWARDSHIP
MAKING OR
BREAKING
YOUR CHURCH?**

**DOWNLOAD THE ACS MINISTRY GUIDE,
SETTING THE STAGE FOR
GOOD STEWARDSHIP,
FOR IDEAS AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS!**

ideastoimpact.com/stewardship1

ACS Technologies.