



## Multi-site DRBD® powers Xen Virtualization

**BACKGROUND** Midland County Central Dispatch Authority (MCCDA) was established in 1993 to consolidate the emergency services answering point for all police, fire, and medical emergencies within Midland County. MCCDA is responsible for dispatching the appropriate emergency service agencies. These agencies include 4 law enforcement agencies, 1 full time city fire department, 12 volunteer fire departments, and 1 EMS agency.

**BUSINESS CHALLENGE** To describe emergency services as “mission-critical” is an understatement. Should the primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) go down due to natural disaster or other catastrophes, emergency services will be in high demand and need to continue working.

Midland County 911 has a back up PSAP and wanted the ability to access the same information and equipment as the primary PSAP. Specifically, they wanted access to their Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system in order to provide the same level of service to the community and employees. They evaluated various options for running the Windows based CAD virtual machines, including replicated SAN arrays attached to VMware with VMotion.

**SOLUTION** To deliver the stability and performance required at a viable price, Midland County 911 chose Xen virtualization using openSUSE Linux with storage replicated by DRBD®. Two servers built using commercial, off-the-shelf components with attached storage were the extent of the investment required to deliver High Availability and live virtual machine migration. With no SAN and no expensive software licenses for virtualization, Midland County 911 was able to implement the solution at a fraction of the cost and complexity. Utilizing LINBIT Professional Services, they tested and implemented the infrastructure quickly and painlessly.



“We evaluated different HA solutions and chose DRBD® as an Open Source solution because of price, performance, and availability. Our options were a SAN replication license, SAN hardware, and VMware licenses, which were unfordable, versus two servers and LINBIT support services at a fraction of the cost. DRBD® helps us to ensure system reliability to our community, the responders, and our staff.”

### IT ADMINISTRATOR FROM THE MIDLAND COUNTY 911

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