The Challenge

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Connecticut is located on a campus setting of approximately 100 acres in North Haven, CT. Over the past 20 years their insurance program has grown so significantly that they have had to add two additional buildings, plus support staff to service their customers.

The Data Processing Department was also affected by these developments. Although expansions took place to accommodate additional equipment needed to service this growth, the secured tape storage vault could not be enlarged.

Conversions to the smaller 3480 tapes provided temporary relief to the space issue. Some type of high-density storage was needed to replace the tape racks and to insure their ability to store all of the tapes in the secured vault. It was projected that the tape library would increase from 27,000 to 32,000 tapes.

Tony Bryant, Data Center Supervisor, utilizes Gemtrac in his Data Center. Gemtrac provides high-density, lockable, enclosed storage for security and dust protection.
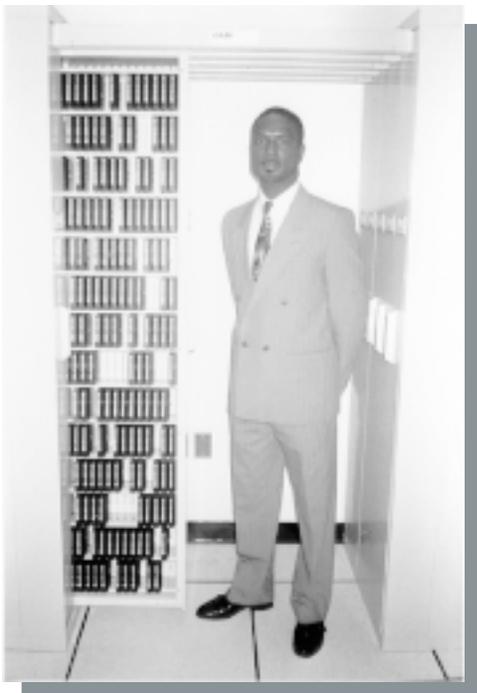
3480 tapes are stored in discrete slots for maximum file control.

The Solution

Tony Bryant, Supervisor of the Data Center, was responsible for evaluating equipment that would solve the storage problem. The existing 3480 tapes were stored on open tape racks that completely filled the vault. Three people were retrieving and re-filing between 2,500 and 2,600 tapes daily.

Russ Bassett prepared a series of CAD floor plans showing various configurations that ranged from maximum storage density to optimum user access. The new layout used approximately 70% of the vault space and was able to store all of the tapes, with room for 20% growth. Seven Gemtrac units provide storage for 32,340 tapes. The remaining vault area is used to store 6,250 round tapes and DAT tapes. There is enough room to add another Gemtrac to store 4,620 additional tapes.

Active user participation in the floor plan helped make this Gemtrac solution the ideal answer for Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

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MEDIA STORAGE SOLUTIONS

CASE STUDY