



## Transforming State Treasurer's Office with a Security-First Mindset

Dell APEX Backup Services enables the Illinois State Treasurer's Office to safeguard \$50 billion worth of assets and large volumes of sensitive data.

### Business needs

- Safeguard citizen personal information.
- Protect against constant cyber threats.
- Back up sensitive data in the cloud.
- Free up IT team to focus on innovation.

### Business results

- 80% reduction in backup management hours.
- Streamline previously time-consuming auditing processes.
- Acquired enterprise-grade resiliency and disaster recovery.
- All applications and data secured both on-premises and in the cloud.
- Achieved key milestones in digital transformation journey.

### Solutions at a glance

- [Dell APEX Backup Services](#)
- [Dell ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise](#)

#### Customer Profile



**Michael W. Frerichs**  
ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER



“Technology plays an integral role in everything we do here. At the end of the day, our goal is to help people in the state, but to help them more efficiently and to protect their safety, we rely on technology.”

**Michael W. Frerichs**  
Illinois State Treasurer

## Empowering Illinois - from Public Services to Personal Finance

The Illinois State Treasurer's office is committed to improving the lives of citizens with transparency and accountability. Treasurer initiatives help parents to fund their children's education, ensure senior citizens can retire comfortably, and provide those that care for disabled loved ones with the support they need. The Treasurer has also helped citizens reclaim over \$1 billion in property that is rightfully theirs. To achieve all this as effectively and securely as possible, the Treasurer's Office is reliant on having access to advanced technology.

In 2015, the agency commissioned a research study of its infrastructure and identified a significant need to modernize, as aging legacy technologies began to show their age. In response, the Treasurer's small but highly productive IT team made a full scale commitment to digital transformation. That commitment has helped to shed the limitations of aging government infrastructure and seen legacy Common Business Oriented Language (COBOL) systems give way to a continually evolving modern multi-cloud strategy. It's also seen the adoption of a security-first mindset which feeds a continual search for new technologies that can help safeguard the agency's data, and preserve public trust.

## Transforming legacy government infrastructure

In today's world, data is everything, and in an institution as old as the Treasurer's Office, there's a lot of it. Adopting a security-first, technology-driven strategy has been key to enabling the Treasurer to safeguard the \$50 billion of assets and large volumes of sensitive data that it's responsible for.

But what if the worst happens? This was the question that led the Treasurer to make sure its data was not just protected, but also backed up and recoverable. It became clear that the Treasurer's existing on-premises backup solutions were no longer viable as the IT team quickly recognized a need to tap into cloud technologies. A cloud backup would offer further protection in the event of a cyberattack without needing to stand up any new infrastructure. This is what led the Treasurer to partner with Dell and leverage Dell APEX Backup Services.



**“Dell Technologies and their strategic partnership has helped us get to where we are today. Without that, we wouldn't be able to serve the people of Illinois the way that we do now.”**

**Joseph Daniels**  
Chief Information Office  
Illinois State Treasurer



**“Every time we deploy a new solution, other state agencies are watching. They love what we do. They love how we innovate. We are hopeful that our partnership with Dell and solutions like APEX Backup Services will continue to make strides in the state of Illinois.”**

**Joseph Daniels**  
Chief Information Office  
Illinois State Treasurer

## Adopting a security-first mindset in a data-driven world

APEX Backup Services is a SaaS-based data protection solution that ensures predictable, controllable costs without increasing complexity. Deployable in minutes, APEX Backup Services provide unlimited on-demand scalability to ensure growing data volumes are always protected. A centralized and intuitive web console provides complete visibility and management across SaaS apps, endpoints and hybrid workloads.

The Treasurer's office is using APEX Backup Services to modernize its data storage and security capabilities, avoid overprovisioning, streamline processes and unlock new opportunities to innovate. This includes the creation of new cloud-based data backup, as well as a vastly simplified auditing process. This is of particular importance as the Treasurer is subject to audits nine out of twelve months a year and must undergo a lot of rigorous testing. APEX has made it easier for the IT team to provide both internal and external auditors with the logs they need.

By leveraging Dell ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise, the Treasurer was able to implement APEX Backup Services with speed and simplicity. Dell experts were able to quickly set up the solutions' automation features which have reduced the amount of time spent managing backup processes by 80%. This proved immensely valuable when the Treasurer's Lead Cloud Architect left the agency. Support from the Dell ProDeploy team, combined with the automation capabilities built-in to APEX Backup Services made it possible to avoid disruption while shielding the IT team from increased demand on their precious time.

## Preserving Public Trust

APEX Backup Services has enabled the Treasurer's office to successfully create a new copy of its data in the cloud. That means every transaction made, every mail received, every text sent, every sheet of paper filed away in the building have all been safely digitized, stored and secured. All of the Treasurer data and applications are now protected by enterprise-grade resiliency and disaster recovery, both on-premises and in the cloud. The IT team is also benefiting from automation and simplified data management, greatly streamlining previously time-consuming processes.

The Treasurer digital transformation journey has already seen it emerge as a leader and example for other government agencies — but the work isn't over yet. The Treasurer continues to rely on its strategic partnership with Dell for guidance and technology that will help to preserve public trust and build a better Illinois.



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