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Ugly Data joins UT's incubator program

When Amy and Dan Miller left high-level positions at Hewlett-Packard (HP) in Chicago, they decided that an entrepreneurship was in their future. Ugly Data Inc., the Millers' managed hosting service, recently got off the ground and is aiming to strengthen Toledo's information technology position.

"We're a managed service provider offering dedicated, web, and email hosting," stated Amy Miller, co-owner of Ugly Data. "We also deal with IT consulting and forensic networks."

Ugly Data provides an outsourced solution for companies that require control over their applications but insist on 100% uptime reliability from their hosting environments. Clients lease dedicated and virtual servers to run their applications, databases and other hosting requirements. The clients manage their applications and databases but delegate their hardware and operating system maintenance, bandwidth, network, security, disaster recovery planning, and site monitoring to Ugly Data.

Ugly Data currently has two data centers. One center is located at the University of Toledo (UT) clean air and alternative energy facility. The second center opened at the University of Toledo Health Science Campus approximately two months ago.

According to Dan Miller, having two data centers will allow for Ugly Data to protect the crucial information that it handles on a daily basis. "It's not a case of replication, it's a case of minoring," he stated. "We have been doing this a long time, and in 20 years at Hewlett-Packard we have seen every manner of [data] failure you can possibly imagine. So, with the technology available today, we feel this is the best way towards mitigating any of those disasters."

According to the Millers, Ugly Data is currently preparing to advertise and educate the Toledo area about its services. Ugly Data is also working with the Regional Growth Partnership (RGP) as part of its technology launch and has joined the UT incubator program.

"We have been working with Nadeane Johnson at the RGP and Megan Reichert at UT," Amy Miller added. "They have been very helpful with introducing us to the community and offering some great benefits to help a small business become successful within Toledo. [These benefits include] a highly secured facility, affordable rent, affiliations, potential grants, [affiliation with the] Third Frontier Program and other community events that will help our company grow."

"Right now the main focus is working with small to mid-sized companies. Our current clients range from a software development company in Minnesota and a medical insurance corporation in Illinois to corporations in Toledo, Tampa, and Atlanta. We are looking at Ugly Data is also in the partner program with Platform Lab, a non-profit IT test facility featured in the March issue of Toledo Business Journal."

According to the Millers, Ugly Data is growing slowly and conservatively, "We're a small company right now, and most of our consultants are on an outsource basis," Amy Miller stated. "Our team includes the high-level employees who left HP. So, we took our expertise and brought it together. We are expecting to add more personnel to our Toledo offices in the near future, utilize the internship program at the University of Toledo, and search for local talent to help fill some of our positions when we decide to expand. If everything goes as planned, we will be expanding our data center to a third location in the Findlay or Bowling Green area next year."

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