NETAPP IT | PROBLEM SOLVED

NetApp IT replaced its physical tape archiving process with a hybrid cloud solution using NetApp® AltaVault™ cloud-integrated storage and NetApp StorageGRID® Webscale for faster, more reliable, and less expensive long-term data retention.

NetApp IT Takes to the Cloud to Improve Archiving Services and Reduce Costs

Like any large global enterprise, NetApp IT faces the challenge of cost-effectively archiving legal, human resources, and financial data to meet various federal and state requirements. Accurate and timely archiving and retrieval of the data, including that related to Sarbanes-Oxley Act and EU Data Protection Regulations, is an essential service that IT provides for various business units within the company.

DATA RETRIEVAL
REDUCED FROM AT LEAST
24 hrs.
▶ **1–6 hrs.**

29.66×
DEDUPLICATION
RATE

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BUSINESS BENEFITS

Switching from physical tape backup to a cloud-based archiving solution enables NetApp IT to achieve the following:

- A 29.66x dedupe rate reduces cloud-based storage, lowering capex.

- Instantaneously starting restore eliminated the need to wait 24+ hours for off-site tape deliveries.

- Faster data restoration resulted in significant time savings for the storage team.

- The need for a vendor to manage the program and the associated warehousing, transportation, and library support costs were removed.

- There was a 100% improvement in operational efficiency, with no tape drive issues.

- Mirroring between two data centers ensures that data is protected.

- There is greater flexibility in scaling operations for future needs.

The traditional IT approach had been to rely on physical tape backups to secure this data. Tapes are reliable, inexpensive, and offer little operational risks. However, data retrieval takes at least 24 hours because the tapes have to be physically retrieved from off-site storage. Third-party management of tape inventory, storage, and management is costly.

Looking for ways to improve its efficiency while cutting costs, NetApp IT turned to its own product toolbox for a solution. The new architecture utilizes NetApp AltaVault, a cloud-integrated storage appliance for backup, and NetApp StorageGRID Webscale, purpose-built software for large data archives, as the foundation for an easy-to-implement archiving solution.

AltaVault and StorageGRID take advantage of the cost and scale benefits of cloud storage to dramatically improve the timeliness of data archiving while eliminating storage, transportation, and technology costs.
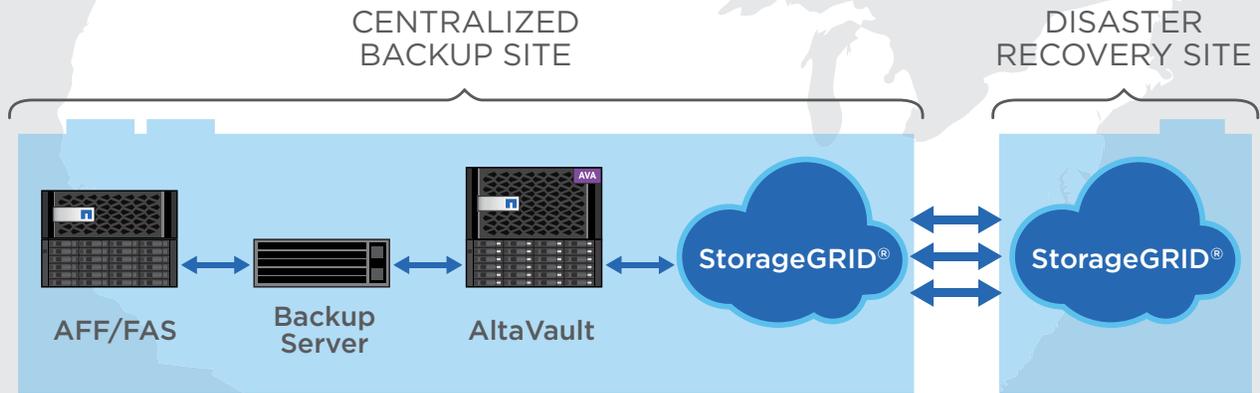
DEDUPLICATION DRAMATICALLY REDUCES STORAGE COSTS

Under the new target architecture, AltaVault serves as a local optimized disk cache to capture and store the archived data once it arrives from NetApp's corporate data center. One copy is then stored in the StorageGRID nodes in a Sunnyvale, California, data center; a backup copy is in a StorageGRID repository in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The two solutions complement each other. AltaVault delivers inline deduplication, compression, and encryption technology, which makes archived data easier to transport and store and faster to retrieve. Inline deduplication is 29.66:1, resulting in much less data to store. 🐦 Data can be categorized into datasets, which makes it easier to manage.

"Even though NetApp is pushing 1.3PB of data to AltaVault, we are sending only 47TB of data to the StorageGRID repository, thanks to deduplication and compression

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NETAPP IT KEEPS DATA SAFE WITH THESE TECHNOLOGIES

CENTRALIZED
BACKUP SITE

DISASTER
RECOVERY SITE

AFF/FAS — Backup Server — AltaVault — StorageGRID® ⟷ StorageGRID®

features," says Pridhvi Appineni, senior IT manager, IT Storage Services, NetApp. "The storage savings are significant."

The enterprise-grade AltaVault storage supports common cloud protocols, including Amazon Web Services, as well as Microsoft Azure and others. This capability fits with NetApp IT's data management strategy to be able to switch cloud vendors as needed and avoid vendor lock-in.

CENTRALIZED DATA MANAGEMENT IN THE CLOUD

NetApp IT uses StorageGRID to centrally manage its massive datasets across multiple logical and/or physical data centers using the cloud. Data policies manage and protect data according to NetApp requirements.

AltaVault and StorageGRID offer a powerful combination for leveraging the cloud for ultrafast data transfers. NetApp IT can retrieve archived data in one to six hours, depending on the dataset size.

"With AltaVault's deduplication and compression features, less data is sent to the cloud, which reduces transfer and retrieval times and reduces storage costs," Appineni says. "StorageGRID gives us the flexibility to modify archive policies and add new archives on an ad-hoc basis—all from one central platform."

Bringing the data archiving process in-house delivers other cost reductions. By automating the archiving process, data can be restored much faster, resulting in significant time savings for the team. The cost of a vendor to manage the tape

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Senior IT Manager, IT Storage Services, NetApp

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program was eliminated; an internal operations team has folded the tasks into their existing responsibilities. Gone are worries about tape procurement, transportation, storage, and library support.

When NetApp IT needs to expand its archive environment, it can spin up a virtual machine using existing disk shelves versus purchasing additional storage. Long term,

NetApp IT can easily transition archiving procedures to data centers as its footprint evolves.

With an increasing emphasis on facilitating business agility, NetApp IT turned to its own toolbox to find a solution that met its needs. "We have dramatically improved how quickly we can deliver requested data to our business customers," Appineni says. "The quicker we can

SOLUTION COMPONENTS

NETAPP PRODUCTS

NetApp AltaVault
NetApp StorageGRID Webscale

deliver the information they need, the faster they can take action. That's our goal."

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