

Major West Coast Research University Cuts Data Replication Costs



Profile

A major research university on the West Coast has accumulated petabytes of data sitting on Network Attached Storage (NAS). The traditional approach of protecting this data, keeping a Demand Response (DR) copy on a mirrored environment, was too expensive and therefore untenable. As a result, the majority of data sitting on the NAS was not replicated and the University was at risk of data loss, which is undesirable.

Challenges

Since the University had recently started to use the public cloud, for some cloud-native use cases, they wanted to see how they could leverage the cloud to store a DR copy of their NAS data, without having to upgrade their network or incur sizable backup software costs.

Solution

Using Komprise, the university was able to see that over 60% of the data on the NAS had not been accessed in over a year. By using the Komprise cost models, they were able to calculate the estimated costs of keeping a DR copy in the cloud. The university was pleased to find that it would be 70% less expensive to keep a DR copy in the cloud, than to use an on-premise solution. In addition, the Komprise analysis showed that a bulk of the data being stored is cold and unchanged. This incremental data growth could be supported by their existing network without any changes.

The university used a copy policy, in Komprise, to put a copy of the data from their NAS into a bucket in the Google Cloud. Komprise adapts to the environment and runs in the background, without interfering with active usage on the storage or the network. Instead, Komprise uses spare network availability and storage cycles to copy data into the cloud bucket. While the university began receiving a DR copy in the cloud, they experienced no changes or impact to their network and storage infrastructure or to users or applications.

Since Komprise supports on-demand scaling, the university was able to deploy more Komprise Observer virtual appliances initially, to get the first copy of all the data into the cloud, and then disable a portion of the Observers in a steady state, once the initial copy was done.

The university now has a replicate copy of data in the cloud, which can be accessed in a DR scenario or by students and faculty for an application in the cloud. Komprise provides file-based access to the data in the cloud and the university can choose to preserve native access to the data as objects.

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In the event of a disaster, we want our faculty to be up and running in minutes. Komprise provides DR to the cloud to enable this at a fraction of the cost.

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CTO
Major Research University



Key Benefits

Intelligent Planning and Cost Modeling

The University was able to plan intelligently with analytics and understanding of data usage and growth, and cost modeling of different “what-if” scenarios.

Cloud DR without any Network, Storage or User Impact

They were able to get a DR copy in the cloud without any interruption to students, faculty, network activities, and without any changes to network or storage infrastructure.

Dynamic Scaling of Resources without Over-Provisioning

The university deployed Komprise without any additional hardware investments, or any storage investments. They were able to scale Komprise up and down as needed – Komprise does not charge for the number of Observer virtual machines, and by adding more to handle the initial copying of data, and then scaling the Observers down, they were able to optimize their virtual machine resources.

Copy in the Cloud for DR and Analytics

Uses Students and faculty now have a DR copy in the cloud not only in the event of a disaster but also to use for cloud-native access. So other sites can now run some applications in the cloud on that data without reaching back on-premise.

Lower Costs

The University is achieving a data replication SLA without additional costs, at 30% of what it would have cost them on-premise.

Data visibility

Identify hot and cold data across storage

Transparent & policy-based archiving: Transparently archive data to the cloud by policy

Lower Storage Costs

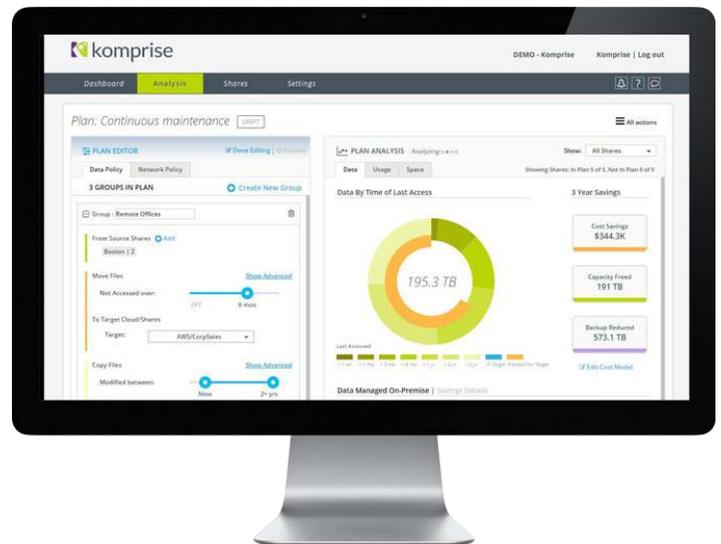
Cut costs, shrink backups by reducing the actively managed footprint

No Changes to User or Application Access

Users and applications see no changes or disruption

Data retrieval

Manage cloud costs by using Komprise to throttle retrievals from the cloud



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Let's Chat

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