



SUCCESS STORY

U.S. Public Sector State and Local Government

PROBLEM SOLVED

A state agency responsible for unemployment benefits and reemployment services for its residents faced data retention and storage issues that hindered its efficiency. With existing plans to migrate to the cloud, they jumpstarted modernization efforts by acquiring NetApp® Cloud Volumes ONTAP®. A short amount of time later, the agency migrated roughly 58TB of data – clearing over a rack of space in their secondary data center.

State Agency Cuts Costs, Moves to the Cloud, and Modernizes with NetApp

A MODERN PATH TO RECORD RETENTION

The path to modernization is not always immediately obvious or easy. This state agency faced a common challenge. The agency, which administers unemployment benefits and reemployment services for tens of thousands of residents throughout the state, faced increasingly stringent compliance requirements for record retention. It needed to maintain some of its data for 7 years, while other data needed to be stored permanently. This meant that the agency needed a dynamic, scalable data retention strategy that was also efficient and cost effective. To maintain critical human resources and essential services for its citizens, data center consolidation and infrastructure modernization helped to realize significant cost savings while achieving the data retention goals.

After careful consideration, the agency approached NetApp to explore the possibility of backing up its data to Amazon Web Services (AWS). This approach would allow the agency to consolidate and modernize its data storage, thereby freeing considerable space in its secondary data center.

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MIGRATING TO THE CLOUD

A long-time NetApp storage customer, the agency had already set a goal of migrating its entire IT operation to the cloud by 2021. It was the ideal time to delve into the process, according to the agency's IT bureau chief of infrastructure, who said, "We were the perfect model for NetApp Cloud Volumes ONTAP. The timing was right, and it made more than enough sense. That decision becomes more of a good decision with every passing day."

In just a few hours after deployment, the migration process was underway. Within weeks – despite a small, restrictive pipe to the cloud – the agency migrated roughly 58TB of data and 85 volumes via NetApp Cloud Volumes ONTAP. This migration cleared out a rack and a half of space in the agency's secondary data center. Now, with a more robust direct pipeline, the agency backs up all its changes nightly. According to the IT infrastructure bureau chief, "We send multiple terabytes of changes every day."

INCREASED FLEXIBILITY

The agency realized benefits from the decision almost immediately. Migrating to the cloud meant that IT staff didn't have to spend time maintaining equipment. "If we want to add more volumes, it's

seamless. We don't need to get a new shelf. We're not disrupted if something goes wrong. And that means time savings and cost savings. Expanding our NetApp ONTAP environment into the cloud has been a huge advantage for us."

Among the benefits the agency has realized is that NetApp Cloud Volumes ONTAP keeps the system running in the cloud, even in the event of an unplanned failure. It also allows the agency to access enterprise-class features in a cloud environment.

"Migrating to the cloud makes us future-proof. We are always able to quickly consume the latest and greatest in [cloud-based software]. In the cloud, we can easily alter our data storage performance with little notice."

The agency continues to realize new benefits every day. The cost savings have been significant; and equally important, the agency has reduced its on-premises footprint and is now in a position to modernize its entire IT infrastructure.

SOLUTION COMPONENTS:

NetApp Cloud Volumes ONTAP

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About NetApp: NetApp is the data authority for hybrid cloud. We provide a full range of hybrid cloud data services that simplify management of applications and data across cloud and on-premises environments to accelerate digital transformation. Together with our partners, we empower global organizations to unleash the full potential of their data to expand customer touchpoints, foster greater innovation, and optimize their operations. For more information, visit www.netapp.com. #DataDriven

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