



Brown University Embraces Hybrid Cloud Environment with Cohesity



INDUSTRY
Higher Education

USE CASE
Backup and Recovery, Long-Term Retention and Archival

COHESITY SOLUTIONS
Microsoft Azure, VMware

SOLUTION PARTNERS
Cambridge Computer Services, Inc.

Key Benefits

- Greatly reduced time of backups and eliminated backup failures and orphaned snapshots. Time savings equaled an entire work day for a network administrator.
- Capex cost savings were near 50%, and Brown saved upwards of \$75K per year in network licensing and additional maintenance cost savings.

Founded in 1764, Brown University is the seventh-oldest college in the United States. The Ivy League institution is located in Providence, Rhode Island and is a leading research university offering undergraduate and graduate instruction to more than 9,000 students and 700 faculty members. Brown offers a broad range of courses of study, including 81 undergraduate academic concentrations, 51 doctoral programs and 32 master's programs.

Challenges

Chris Menard, Lead Storage Administrator, directs a team responsible for infrastructure, storage, backup and recovery, storage services, and disaster recovery. His team was experiencing challenges with the existing legacy solution, and nightly backups were often not completed. With existing infrastructure from Data Domain, Networker and VMware, there were a lot of moving parts to ensure a backup completed. Upgrades were extremely painful and the time and effort required by the team for troubleshooting was becoming tedious and cumbersome.

Brown University manages more than 4PB of data, with expansion at upwards of 20TB per week. The exponential growth of data makes it hard to keep up with storage demands. Faced with the existing Data Domain hardware coming up on a maintenance cycle and due for a refresh, Chris and his team decided to take a holistic look at the environment and put a modern solution in place that was designed to leverage virtualization capabilities and newer platforms.

Solution

Brown did its homework to identify the optimal solution for its requirements. After consulting Gartner research and looking at solutions from Cohesity, Rubrik and Veeam, the IT team began a comprehensive Proof of Concept (PoC) between Cohesity and Rubrik. A key reason Brown went with Cohesity was overall ease of use and management, and the ability to connect seamlessly with Azure for enabling disaster recovery with secondary copies of data in the cloud. The evaluation process also included teams from Brown's Systems Group, responsible for VMware, Windows and UNIX systems, to test recovery across all systems.

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"Cohesity's native integration with Azure could not be matched, and gave us tremendous flexibility for how to manage our data without maintaining a separate piece of hardware. Cohesity Cloud Edition will provide the ability to recover snapshots seamlessly, fully recover VMs directly into Azure, and give us flexibility for using secondary offsite copies with Azure and Cohesity Cloud Edition. Cohesity has greatly simplified the entire process of managing and consolidating data in a hybrid cloud environment."

Chris Menard, Lead Storage Administrator, Brown University

Brown deployed Cohesity to handle all backup and recovery for central IT systems, including physical and virtual machines. Cohesity's seamless native integration with Microsoft Azure (Cloud Archive) allows the university to create a secondary off-site copy of data into Azure for disaster recovery. The IT team is also taking steps to eventually use Cohesity for dev/test, file and object services, and possibly configuring an NFS mount for database backups.

Results

From the get-go, the IT team at Brown realized the Cohesity solution was going to set the university up for success. From an intuitive interface and seamless platform integration, to greatly reduced times for backups and recovery, the Cohesity architecture has freed up the team to focus on other projects and revolutionized the team's efficiency.

"Since deploying Cohesity, I have yet to arrive at the office in the morning and see a backup still running. While we gave our staff documentation on how to use the Cohesity platform, half of our associates didn't even need it because the solution is that easy to figure out," explains Menard.

Cohesity Cloud Edition will allow the team to recover snapshots from its primary Cohesity cluster archived in Azure. If needed, the team will be able to recover full VMs into Azure, or perform file level recoveries either into Azure or back to on-prem systems. Using Azure as a secondary offsite copy and connecting the copies through Cohesity

Cloud Edition gives the team tremendous agility and flexibility. The upgrade process with Cohesity is also greatly simplified. "An area of big savings for Brown University is found in the absolute ease of upgrades with Cohesity," explains Menard. "Where we used to set aside two days and people from various teams to perform upgrades in our previous environment, we now click a few buttons and go about our business."

Brown realized enormous time savings across several IT teams. In the old environment, backups would be running almost around the clock. Now instead of troubleshooting and working to re-architect proxy servers to make backups work, the backups are well within the SLA windows. The VMware team no longer had to clean up snapshots and saved up to 10 hours per week once Cohesity was deployed.

The benefits for Brown University selecting Cohesity include:

- Greatly reduced time of backups and eliminated backup failures and orphaned snapshots. Time savings equaled an entire work day for a network administrator.
- Capex cost savings were near 50%, and Brown saved upwards of \$75K per year in network licensing and additional maintenance cost savings.
- Native integration with Microsoft Azure allows IT to set up secondary offsite copies in Cohesity Cloud Edition, providing many options for how to leverage the data.

Learn more at [Cohesity.com](https://www.cohesity.com)

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