



IIFL Partners with NTT Global Data Centers and Cloud Infrastructure, India (erstwhile NTT-Netmagic) to Deploy AWS Storage and Archival Solution

Client profile

Established in 1995, IIFL is one of India's top financial services companies and a pioneer in the retail broking industry. The company is backed by the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) and General Atlantic, one of the world's leading private equity companies. It is an integrated financial services group with more than 40 lakh customers across various categories – including retail broking (5paisa.com), institutional equities, financial advisory, housing finance, wealth and asset management, mutual funds, investment banking, real estate broking and financial product distribution.

Requirement

With rising infrastructure needs, the company needed a cost-effective and scalable solution to manage its data archival. IIFL partnered with NTT Global Data Centers and Cloud Infrastructure, India (erstwhile NTT-Netmagic) to assess its needs, take the right infrastructure/vendor choices and migrate its entire data environment to the selected cloud infrastructure.

IIFL used traditional tape based backup to archive their data for the last 5 years at NTT Global Data Centers and Cloud Infrastructure, India (erstwhile NTT-Netmagic) Datacenter. This archival process involved moving large amounts of data to tapes, manual intervention and tape rotation, offsite shipping and periodic retrieval of data – which was costly and time consuming and prone to errors which affected overall internal Service Level Objectives (SLO) & Mean Time to Restore (MTTR).

The solution needed to be easily maintainable, secure, cost effective, durable and highly available, providing options for upload and retrieval of archive data. It also needed to be flexible enough to meet financial and compliance requirements.

Solution

NTT Global Data Centers and Cloud Infrastructure, India (erstwhile NTT-Netmagic) evaluated IIFL's data archival needs to understand usage patterns, volumes, regulatory compliance and security of present archival process.

We proposed to replace IIFL's legacy, tape storage environment with a web-scale secondary storage solution that consolidates data protection and file storage, while providing simple integration with Amazon S3 Glacier for long-term archival.

The proposed solution was a combination of NTT Global Data Centers and Cloud Infrastructure, India (erstwhile NTT-Netmagic) SimpliVault (powered by Commvault) and Amazon S3 Glacier connected over AWS Direct Connect.

IIFL required a cost effective scalable and secure solution to move away from tape based storage and meet its ongoing data archival needs.

The proposed solution also needed to address one-time migration of its existing tape based archives.

The data archiving system uses agents to interface with file systems, to facilitate the archiving of critical data on production systems. With a single and low-impact scan, Commvault OnePass incorporates data protection, retention, reporting and access for file and email environments. The data is also de-duplicated and compressed for storage efficiency in the cloud.

The solution provided powerful features around automated archiving and e-discovery, and eliminates the need for expensive on-premise tape infrastructure. It offers competitive pricing (for both monthly and migration costs) and meets its current and future data needs.

IIFL also needed to migrate its 5 years of existing archives (more than 50 TB) of tape based storage to Amazon S3 Glacier as a one-time effort. This was done using AWS Snowball - a secure, device-based solution to move petabytes of data into Amazon S3 Glacier. The process involved two test migrations and a mock data verification activity which included restoration activity to ensure data consistency during migration.

Benefits

By partnering with NTT Global Data Centers and Cloud Infrastructure, India (erstwhile NTT-Netmagic), IIFL successfully migrated its large data archive to Amazon S3 Glacier using AWS Snowball. After migrating all data to Amazon S3 Glacier, IIFL modified its existing backup policies to move archive data to Amazon S3 Glacier thereby eliminating the use of tape storage (from LTO Gen 1 to Gen 6). This was achieved post setup of AWS Direct Connect. The IT team at IIFL was able to reduce operational complexity and save a large amount of time by minimizing manual intervention.

The NTT Global Data Centers and Cloud Infrastructure, India (erstwhile NTT-Netmagic) and AWS solution provided the following advantages to IIFL's archival processes

- NTT Global Data Centers and Cloud Infrastructure, India (erstwhile NTT-Netmagic) SimpliVault and Amazon S3 Glacier provide unmatched scalability and flexibility to meet growing data backup and archival needs, allowing IIFL to optimize utilization without any extra administrative overhead.
- IIFL was able to effectively meet its desired objective and compliance needs by leveraging AWS and Netmagic (BaaS powered by Commvault) services.
- The combined solution provided IIFL with ease of operations in their backup and archival activity using in time alerts, schedule detailed reporting, policy base automation.
- AWS cloud-based storage solutions (Amazon S3 Glacier) enabled IIFL to bring down storage and archival costs by approximately 40%. It also allowed to bring down the retrieval time by 60%, allowing IIFL to choose the best retrieval options depending on their business needs. The pay-as-you-go pricing model is expected to bring down IIFL's CAPEX projections over a period of time.
- As data needs continue to grow, the cloud-based solution will enable IIFL to bring down storage and archival costs significantly in the long run.