

CASE STUDY

IIFL Partners with NTT Com-Netmagic to Deploy AWS Storage and Archival Solution

Requirement

- 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.

Solution Summary

- Replaced tape based storage with web-scale storage solution – consisting of NTT Com-Netmagic SimpliVault (BaaS) powered by Commvault and AWS S3 Glacier for archival
- Used Amazon Snowball for one time bulk migration of existing archives to Amazon S3 Glacier
- AWS Direct Connect for ongoing data backup and long term archival and retrieval using Amazon S3 Glacier

Benefits

- Migration to Amazon S3 Glacier and SimpliVault completely eliminated the use of tape storage
- Reduced manual intervention and lower complexity, leading to efficiencies and cost savings
- Achieved the migration of its existing archives faster than local infrastructure
- Leveraged a combination of Netmagic SimpliVault and AWS S3 Glacier cloud based backup and archival capabilities around durability, security, scalability, compliance and pay-as-you-grow pricing
- Encryption at rest using AWS Glacier

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Customer 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.

What Was the Requirement?

With rising infrastructure needs, the company needed a cost-effective and scalable solution to manage its data archival. IIFL partnered with NTT Com-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 Com-Netmagic Datacenter. This archival process involved moving large amounts of data to tapes, manual intervention and tape rotation, off siting and periodic retrieval of data – which was costly and time consuming and prone to errors which affected overall internal SLO & MTTR.

The solution needed to be easily maintainable, secure, cost effective, durable, 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 Com-Netmagic evaluated IIFL's data archival needs to understand usage patterns, volumes, 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 AWS Glacier for long-term archival.

The proposed solution was a combination of NTT Com-Netmagic SimpliVault (powered by Commvault) and Amazon S3 Glacier connected over direct connect.

IIFL uses the Commvault-based solution to send one copy of data to NTT Com-Netmagic datacenter (SimpliVault) and secondary copy to Amazon S3 Glacier as a part of compliance.

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 Glacier as a one-time effort. This was done using Amazon Snowball - a secure, device-based solution to move petabytes of data into Amazon Glacier. The process involved two test migrations and a mock data verification activity which included restoration activity to ensure data consistency during migration.

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□ The NTT Com-Netmagic and AWS Advantage

By partnering with NTT Com-Netmagic, IIFL successfully migrated its large data archive to AWS S3 Glacier using AWS Snowball. After migrating all data to Amazon Glacier, IIFL modified its existing backup policies to move archive data to AWS 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 Com-Netmagic and AWS solution provided the following advantages to IIFL's archival processes:

- NTT Com-Netmagic SimpliVault and AWS Glacier provide unmatched scalability and flexibility to meet growing data backup and archival needs, allowing IIFL to optimize utilization with without any extra administrative overhead.
- IIFL was able to effectively meet its desired objective and compliance needs by leveraging AWS Cloud and Netmagic (BaaS powered by Commvault) services.
- The combined solution provided IIFL with ease operations in their backup and archival activity using in time alerts, schedule detailed reporting, policy base automation.
- AWS cloud-based storage solutions (AWS –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-grow 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. The pay-as-you-grow pricing model is expected to bring down IIFL's CAPEX projections over a period of time.

Netmagic (An NTT Communications Company)

Lighthall 'C' Wing,
Hiranandani Business Park,
Saki Vihar Road, Chandivali,
Mumbai - 400 072.

1800 103 3130

marketing@netmagicsolutions.com
www.netmagicsolutions.com



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