

DATA BACKUP BECOMES TRANSFORMATIVE

IT services provider enables a Consulting Services Firm client to back up Amazon Web Services and on-site workloads with ease



.infront

IT services

Australia

Business needs

Data volumes and workloads at one of Infront's clients had grown rapidly as a result of business diversification. The company lacked centralized visibility and control over its on-site and cloud backups as well as its hybrid cloud.

Solutions at a glance

- [Dell EMC Data Protection Suite](#)

Business results

- Provides a competitive advantage for IT services provider
- Completes backups within the client's backup window of 12hrs despite rapid data growth
- Enables a single, consolidated view across all backup workloads
- Supports attaching automated data protection policies to any new services as they're developed

Delivers a unified
backup solution
for diverse hybrid workloads



Reduces costs

of data storage on Amazon Web Services



Companies around the world are embracing digital transformation to become more agile, efficient and innovative. Many companies need help to navigate this sea change. That's where Infront steps in and excels. From consulting and planning to architecting hybrid cloud-based IT infrastructures and providing fully managed cloud services, Infront guides companies through every step of their digital-transformation journeys. The Canberra, Australia-based IT service provider draws on nearly two decades of data center expertise and IT innovation to help its clients realize the benefits of a unified hybrid cloud.

One Infront client, a leading Asia-Pacific Consulting Services firm, is a great example of the advantages of embarking on such initiatives. In recent years, the Australian firm had branched out beyond its law practice into software development and business process management. Its business diversification not only brought in new revenue streams, but also new workloads and a flood of data.

Infront helped its client plan and implement a hybrid cloud to enable its digital transformation. The problem was that the client previously relied on another managed service provider for backups that could not support Amazon Web Services (AWS) workloads and lacked centralized visibility and control over the firm's hybrid cloud. Replacing the previous provider, Infront overcame these challenges by supplying its client with backup-as-a-service using the Dell EMC Data Protection Suite.

With the Dell EMC Data Protection Suite, Infront helped the firm unify backups for on-site and AWS cloud workloads. The firm now has consolidated visibility across multiple backups and consistently meets backup windows even as data growth continues unabated.

Environment

Infront adopted Dell EMC Data Protection software as its go-to solution for protecting client data. Infront uses the solution to back up the firm's on-site workloads and data to Dell EMC Data Domain storage. This includes daily and weekly backups for VMware workloads, Microsoft Exchange, Windows File servers, and NAS devices. Nearly 100 percent of the client's applications are virtualized with VMware vSphere.

In addition, the IT services provider uses components of the EMC Data Protection Suite to move Data Domain backups to AWS S3 storage for long-term archiving. Infront also uses Data Protection software to perform cloud-to-cloud backups of the firm's public-cloud workloads directly to AWS. This includes client project data and custom-developed capabilities for managing on-demand contract teams.

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Sean Kwek
Senior Hybrid Cloud Engineer, Infront

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digital
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Data Protection software
backs up every

10 min

This ensures
granular recovery
of critical
virtual-machine
data inside of
a 10-minute
recovery point.



“Using Dell EMC Data Protection software, we only send changed data to AWS. That ... saves money for our client.”

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Backup versatility enhances competitive edge

With the Dell EMC Data Protection Suite, Infront has an integrated portfolio of capabilities to back up and protect client data across a wide range of scenarios. Whether physical or virtual, Microsoft- or Oracle-based, or meeting clients' custom requirements, Data Protection software fits the bill.

For example, for some clients, Infront uses Data Protection software to not just back up standalone instances of SQL Server or Microsoft Exchange, but complex clusters and database availability groups. Because these systems are so critical, Infront uses Data Protection software to back up transaction logs from the availability groups, along with Microsoft Active Directory objects, every 10 minutes. This ensures granular recovery of critical virtual-machine data inside of a 10-minute recovery point.

Sean Kwek, Infront's Senior Hybrid Cloud engineer, remarks, “The versatility of Dell EMC Data Protection software to protect virtually any kind of workload gives us a competitive advantage over other service providers that only offer point solutions.”

Prime backup efficiency across hybrid cloud

With the deduplication and compression capabilities of Dell EMC Data Protection software, Infront enabled its client to meet its established backup window of 12 hours despite rapid data growth. In fact, Data Protection software reduced the amount of data backed up to AWS by 65% percent. And Data Domain delivered a deduplication ration of 50:1 for on-site backups.

“Using Dell EMC Data Protection software, we only send changed data to AWS,” notes Kwek, “That not only reduces the amount of backup data so the process is faster, but it also consumes less storage in AWS, which has financial benefits for our client.”

Centralized backup control and reporting

Another key benefit of Data Protection software for Infront and its clients is central reporting across physical and virtual, on-site and AWS environments. For Infront's client, this means a single, consolidated view across all backup workloads, without requiring separate administrative tools. And, the Consulting Services firm now can rely on centralized visibility of its backup processes.

Kwek notes, "Dell EMC Data Protection software has made it easier for our clients to control how its various workloads are backed up in the hybrid cloud and to trust that the data is properly and successfully protected whether it's on their premises or in public clouds such as AWS."

Orchestration and automation in the cloud

As the Consulting Services firm creates more diverse workloads as part of its digital transformation, Data Protection software enables it to attach data protection policies to any new services as they're developed. That way, services are automatically protected when deployed, and that protection stays with the service even if it moves from the cloud to on-site or vice versa.

"We're working with our client to provide greater automation and orchestration around everything they put in the cloud," says Kwek. "That way, any time a workload is placed in AWS, it is automatically linked with the correct functionality of the Dell EMC Data Protection Suite and matches the data protection policies specified by the firm. This is just another way we can help our clients streamline and strengthen protection for their valuable data."

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