

5 ways to get control of your backup and recovery environment

As an IT professional, you know the word “kludge” all too well, having experienced the pain of cobbling together multiple products to try to function as one unit. It takes too much time, effort, and cost to keep such complexity in your environment. There is a better way. Start with a complete solution that not only addresses your backup and recovery needs of yesterday and today but is flexible and innovative enough to cover the changing needs of tomorrow.

This approach should account for capabilities for workloads on-premises, in the cloud, across multiple cloud, and within your SaaS data sets. Native integration into these platforms and applications, plus the reporting and analytics to help you make more informed decisions.

Choose modern and integrated over legacy and point product confusion

Not too long ago, you needed separate product or custom scripts for almost every application, platform, or array with data that required backup. Each of these came with their own infrastructure, licensing, schedules, and user interfaces that IT teams were required to operate and support. Even today we see newer vendors in the market only supporting a limited set of workloads, forcing you to either deploy multiple solutions or build your own customizations to completely cover off all your data needs.

Commvault® is an innovator in data management – anticipating and delivering support for the latest workloads such as containers, cloud, and multiple hypervisors so you can continue to evolve your own environment with the confidence your data is safe. With a comprehensive intelligent data management solution like Commvault, you reduce the complexity, costs, and risk encountered when running a fragmented mix of products.

The Commvault solution natively integrates with a broad spectrum of data sources eliminating the need for point products or scripts. Managed through a single, intuitive user interface the built-in backup, deduplication, replication, archiving, analytics and reporting capabilities enable you to quickly store, manage, protect, and use your data – whatever it is, wherever it lives.

Below are five more ways Commvault software enables the streamlined approach to backup and recovery you need to support your ever-changing business needs.

Flexibility

The only constant these days is change. How do you keep up with shifting business needs and still deliver the infrastructure to support its data requirements? Add to that mergers and acquisitions introducing new workloads and applications into your environment that you weren't prepared to cover. Multi-cloud environments have also become the norm. 'Shadow IT' continues to grow thanks to the ease of standing up cloud, SaaS, and other XaaS environments without involving IT. Legacy backup and recovery solutions aren't architected to support today's modern environments, and many of the 'newer' products have limited application, hardware, and cloud support. This limits your flexibility and forces you to deploy multiple products, which increases complexity.

84% of enterprises have a multi-cloud strategy¹

Today's dynamic environments require a flexible solution that can ensure your data is safe across data centers, geographies, and in the cloud, with support for a broad array of enterprise applications, integrated snapshot storage arrays, cloud storage providers, hypervisors, containers, and operating systems. Commvault software provides industry-unique, breadth and depth of coverage across these categories to protect your entire physical, virtual, hyper-converged, and cloud environment¹ today, with the confidence that you will be protected in the future, all backed by a best-in-class global customer support organization.²

“Commvault continues to be an innovation leader and often responds to market needs earlier than competition with application support, flexible pricing models and use cases such as cloud data management.”

Gartner Magic Quadrant for Data Center Backup and Recovery Solutions, October 2019

Automation

When you rely on manual processes, including writing and maintaining complex scripts, you open the door to human error and consume valuable time and resources that could be spent on more strategic priorities. Yet this is the status quo in many organizations.

Commvault software uses built-in automation, orchestration, and policy-based management to improve your overall IT productivity. This saves valuable time and simplifies operations, making them more reliable. You can automatically set operations according to your desired service levels or defined thresholds, as well as discrete points in time. This “self-driving” backup operation is guided by your desired outcomes. It includes the ability to automatically move your data across storage tiers, including the cloud, to lower cost and/or long-term storage for archiving or compliance purposes. Additionally, integrated snapshot management eliminates time-consuming and error-prone manual scripts, while providing near instant protection. Finally, by providing secure, role-based self-service access to your extended teams based on policies that you define, you free up IT resources to focus on projects that add value back to the business.

Cost-efficient

Virtually every vendor solution claims to be cost-effective, but it is important to understand the complete context from a backup and recovery perspective. Price is clearly important. However, if you need multiple ‘cheap’ products to address your various use cases (e.g., one for VMs, one for archiving, one for cloud, etc.), you likely didn’t save anything, but you definitely increased your management complexity. Commvault backup and recovery software helps you lower your costs across your entire environment.

Deduplication. Global deduplication eliminates redundant data at the source or target, so you can optimize your primary and secondary storage costs. With source-side deduplication, you can reduce up to 90% of the data moved over your network, significantly cutting your backup time when compared against dedicated target-based deduplication appliances. Commvault software deduplication also eliminates the need for rehydration when tiering data off site or to cloud and tape targets.

Storage tiering. All data is not created equal. As such, one size does not fit all when it comes to storing and accessing your data. You want your production data and most frequently accessed data on your highest performing and most secure storage. As that data ages or is accessed less frequently, it can be automatically moved from primary to secondary storage, on-premises to the cloud, between cloud providers, and/or disk to tape based on its retention, access, and recovery needs. This level of flexibility requires extensive application, cloud, hypervisor, and storage support, which Commvault provides.

Scalability. Many solutions boast about their ability to scale up or out to meet business needs, but when it comes to modern cloud environments you also need the ability scale down. Commvault delivers proven and reliable scalability options to grow or shrink your footprint for storage and compute according to your needs. This eliminates the need for large “cold” sites with costly infrastructure sitting idle. In addition, Commvault is capable of scaling not just size, but also features and functions. The advantage of having an entire data management platform built on the same code means that you can extend the functionality without the need of having to add in new products.

² <https://www.commvault.com/commvault-supported-technologies>

³ <https://www.commvault.com/news/2018/april/commvault-innovates-with-new-proactive-customer-support-framework>

Disaster recovery. You want to quickly recover your mission-critical data following a disaster, whereas some of your non-mission critical data may have less stringent recovery requirements. With Commvault snapshot management technology and automated workflows, you can expedite disaster recovery by providing instant access to your applications and data, which reduces downtime costs and increases availability. Commvault provides extensive support for cross-cloud and cross-hypervisor recovery which gives you much more flexibility when it comes to out-of-place recovery – restore the data where you need it.

4 Modern

The definition of modern changes over time, and the backup and recovery space is no different. Modern has evolved from referring to support for virtualized environments, to supporting container technology, to delivering software-defined and scale-out architectures for today’s hybrid cloud environments. Whether you choose an integrated appliance that can be up and running in less than 30 minutes, or you use general-purpose storage servers of your choice in a reference design, Commvault HyperScale™ Technology allows you to purchase only the capacity you need today and simply add capacity as your data grows. Compared to ‘legacy’ approaches that force you to buy large, monolithic scale-up appliances with more capacity than you need and then require expensive forklift updates once the appliances are full or reach the end of their useful life, the choice of architecture becomes clear.

Commvault HyperScale™ Technology increases availability and ensures predictable performance using a scale-out architecture that allows you to leverage the cost, resiliency, and scale efficiencies of cloud infrastructures.

5 Active

In today’s world, backup data can no longer simply be viewed as an insurance policy, sitting there doing nothing on (expensive) disk waiting for something bad to happen – you cannot afford having “data at rest”. You need to put those secondary copies of data to use for other business purposes.

With Commvault software, this is possible because Commvault managed data is contained in a single, agnostic, virtual repository spanning across your on-premises, remote, off-site, and cloud storage resources. This repository, when combined with a global and dynamic index, knows exactly where all the data lives, significantly improves visibility across your environment, and allows you to use the virtual copies of that backup data for other purposes. These can include securely providing dev/test copies of the data for line-of-business teams whenever and wherever they need it. This accelerates application development and improves data analytics, maximizing the value of your data.

When paired with Commvault Activate™, you can drive additional analytics and actionable insights to the data. Use your data to better support your compliance and governance initiatives. Leverage these analytics to categorize and prioritize your data – to understand the value within the data you have under management.

A solution for the future

Legacy systems and multiple point products simply do not work in today’s data environment. Commvault delivers a single solution that IT professionals can use to provide more efficient backup, recovery, and data management. The capabilities described herein – flexibility, automation, cost-effective, modern, and active – are focused on helping your IT staff simplify your environment, reduce costs, and support a modern environment today and into the future. It is time to put the word ‘kludge’ in the data archives!

Meet your data protection needs now and in the future with enterprise backup software. [Learn >](#)