

White Paper

Veeam and Nutanix: Simplify Data Protection and Secondary Storage

The combination of HCI and industry-leading data protection provides a unique solution

By Christophe Bertrand, ESG Senior Analyst
and Monya Keane, ESG Senior Research Analyst

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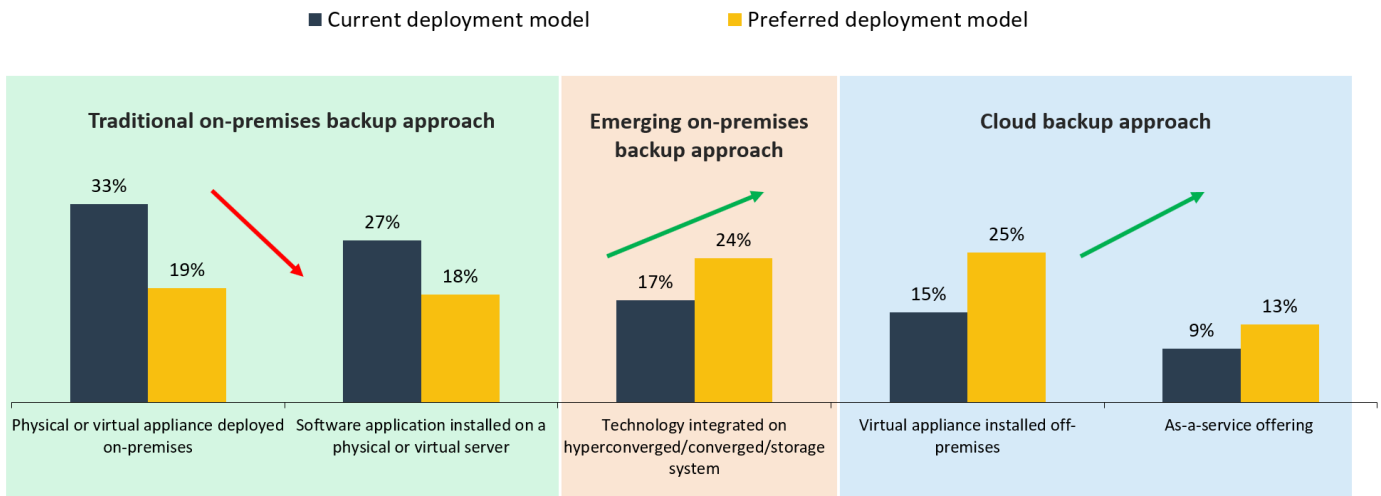
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Introduction

Whether business data resides on site or in the cloud, IT organizations need to establish a common data protection scheme for all of it. Data-loss risks are comparable for both on- and off-premises data. And these days, IT organizations have a horse in both races: On-premises data protection remains prevalent, but organizations have increased their use of cloud-centric backup. Hyperconverged-based backup/recovery is also an emerging approach (see Figure 1).¹

Figure 1. Hyperconverged On-premises and Cloud Topologies are Picking up Steam

What is your organization’s most common deployment model for solutions that back up on-premises systems? Going forward, what will likely be your organization’s backup solution deployment model preference (i.e., what would you be most likely to standardize on)? (Percent of respondents, N=320)



Source: Enterprise Strategy Group

However, too many organizations are operating totally different data availability solutions in those differing environments. Using disparate protection solutions in this manner is risky. That’s because adhering to established recovery point objectives/recovery time objectives (RPOs/RTOs) is necessary for all protection data, regardless of where it is being housed. Without a common data protection scheme in place, some workloads that require protection can fall through the cracks. That situation then puts the business at risk, or at the very least, it causes the business’s operating-overhead costs to increase.

Among the IT organizations surveyed by ESG, 71% report that the amount of downtime they can tolerate for **key applications** is less than an hour and 38% can tolerate only one hour or less of downtime, even for **lower-priority applications**.² Those are short timeframes as it is, yet surveyed IT pros also report that a top mandate being issued by IT leadership is to improve RPOs and RTOs even further.³

Again, it doesn’t matter *where* data is being protected because all availability levels are receiving the same amount of uptime-related scrutiny by the rest of the business. That’s why RPOs and RTOs for cloud-resident secondary data must be as stringently applied as RTOs/RPOs for on-premises backups of the most mission-critical data needing very fast recovery. End-users do not know or care which cloud service or on-site data center that IT is using to store data for recovery. They

¹ Source: ESG Master Survey Results, [2018 Data Protection Landscape Survey](#), November 2018.

² Source: ESG Master Survey Results, [Real-world SLAs and Availability Requirements](#), May 2018.

³ Source: ESG Master Survey Results, [2018 Data Protection Landscape Survey](#), November 2018.

just want their files back. Fortunately, a common data availability scheme can really help satisfy the availability expectations IT faces. It could also satisfy company leadership and internal/external end-users for whom access to data is critical.

Another factor to consider relates to backups of software-as-a-service (SaaS) application data, especially Microsoft Office 365 backups. Consider that 33% of data protection professionals surveyed by ESG believe SaaS-based applications don't need to be backed up at all and 37% rely solely on their SaaS vendor to protect SaaS-resident application data. When it comes to the Office 365 business productivity suite in particular, 27% of survey respondents said they have no Office 365 recovery capabilities.⁴

Those organizations are at risk. They are under the impression that Microsoft handles protection of Azure-stored files. Microsoft most definitely does not do so—as some companies learn the hard way.

Is Protection on a Hyperconverged Platform a Potential Solution?

The emergence of converged and hyperconverged platforms presents organizations with a great new way to protect data. As Figure 1 showed, it is an approach gaining in popularity. The rise of protection schemes centered on usage of converged or hyperconverged platforms reflects the fact that we are now clearly living in a fully hybrid IT world—one in which a combination of on-premises and cloud data protection exists and must work in unison to deliver on stringent service level agreements (SLAs).

Modern Data Protection: On-premises and in the Cloud...and then Back On-premises

If the goal is to achieve RPO/RTO consistency, increase operational efficiency and simplify staff training, then protection schemes for data on site, data born in the cloud, and data that was moved to the cloud must all be identical. Using a common set of tools for protection across the board is just more efficient because it minimizes operational inefficiency and operator error.

Fortunately, leading cloud data management vendor [Veeam](#) is working to provide organizations with just that type of solution, and this work includes establishing strong partnerships with cloud and IT infrastructure providers.

In this case, Veeam is partnering with hyperconverged infrastructure provider [Nutanix](#). Like Veeam, Nutanix is well known for solutions designed to put ease of use at the forefront—the highly regarded Nutanix Prism interface is one example. Nutanix also specializes in on-premises enterprise cloud support. It is a natural fit that Veeam and Nutanix are working together to offer IT organizations what essentially is “a cloud experience on site.”

Having a cloud experience on site is an especially important advantage now. A growing number of organizations are bringing secondary data sets back on site from the cloud. Sometimes they do so to improve their regulatory compliance posture. Other times they do so to mitigate data-security-related risks. The rising OpEx costs for cloud subscriptions are another reason an organization may bring secondary data sets back on site. And of course, data recovery issues are yet another impetus for repatriation.⁵

A converged infrastructure is one of the most frequently selected options for running repatriated data and applications. Organizations that have repatriated primary/production (not secondary) workloads from the cloud report to ESG that improved security, performance, availability, and recoverability (recoverability was cited by 33% of respondents) emerged as key benefits.⁶

⁴ Source: ESG Master Survey Results, [Data Protection Cloud Strategies](#), June 2019.

⁵ Source: ESG Master Survey Results, [Tipping Point: Striking the Hybrid Cloud Balance](#), October 2018.

⁶ *ibid.*

New: Veeam and Nutanix Mine

As mentioned, Veeam and Nutanix have been expanding their partnership. Most recently, Nutanix tapped Veeam to help it support **Nutanix Mine with Veeam**—an integrated, pre-packaged hyperconverged appliance-plus-software solution offering organizations a better way to get “the best of both worlds” in the form of fully unified on-site/off-site data protection and recovery.

The offering appears to be highly suitable for any organization experiencing challenges in protecting increasingly complex applications within IT environments that are marked by sprawling infrastructures, siloed management and technology stacks, and chronic inability to meet tight SLAs.

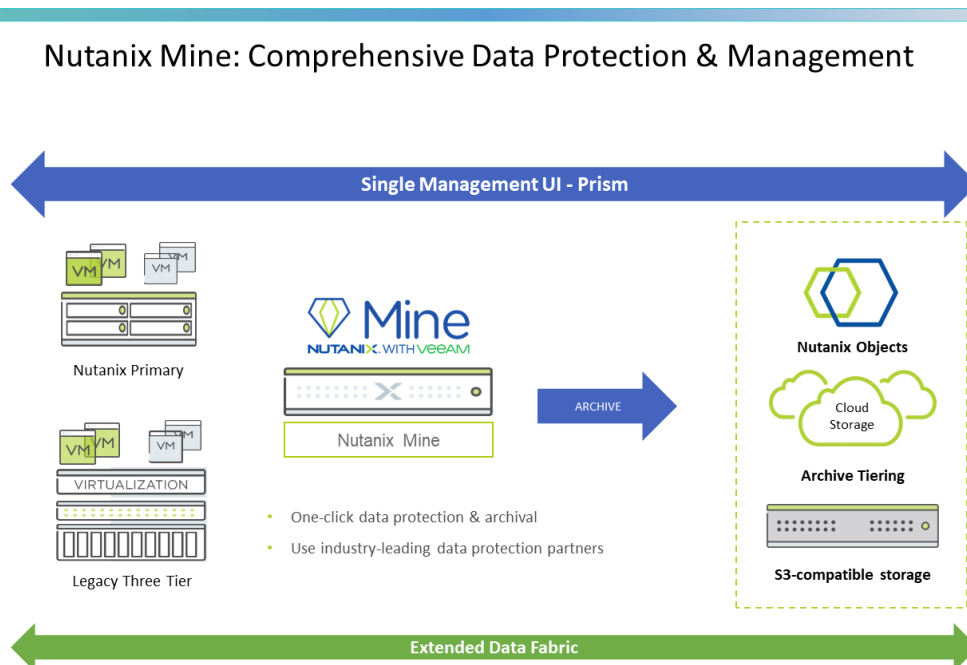
Nutanix Mine with Veeam extends the core strengths of Nutanix AOS software, popular for the past ten years, to secondary data. It integrates with leading data protection software from Veeam, with the software running in a hyperconverged manner on Nutanix core AOS. It is meant to be an entirely self-sufficient turnkey solution that provides compute, memory, storage, and now, data availability/backup too.

Nutanix Mine with Veeam is also tightly integrated with the Nutanix HCI data fabric and Prism management console (see Figure 2), which means that IT administrators can use one pane of glass to manage both primary storage (as part of the HCI infrastructure) and secondary backups. It can back up VMs and application data from Nutanix and non-Nutanix environments, which means it could be a good option as a standalone backup solution, even in legacy IT environments.

It can be deployed as a complete solution with all hardware and software included. Or, for no additional cost, organizations that already own Veeam software can use those Veeam instances—thus maximizing the return on their software investment.

Overall, the objective of Veeam and Nutanix centers on combining one of the industry’s best HCI solutions with the exemplary data protection capabilities of one of the industry’s top data availability solutions providers to create a modern and efficient backup/recovery solution.

Figure 2. Mine Topology Diagram



Source: Nutanix and Veeam

The Veeam-Nutanix Partnership

Nutanix created an incredible, truly enterprise-class technology. The integration with Veeam makes it even better. Nutanix makes sure high availability is built-in and Veeam takes care of establishing additional connections to the cloud, tape support, granular restores, and a common availability interface across all supported hypervisors.

Their combined solution is a cloud-like offering marked by extreme operational simplicity and efficiency, outstanding scalability, excellent risk-reduction and cost-control characteristics...and of course impressive levels of application and data Availability.

The recent RMAN and HANA support, and the ongoing joint collaboration to support interoperability between the Veeam Cloud Tier object storage feature and Nutanix Mine both exemplify how well this Nutanix/Veeam alliance is turning out.

The Bigger Truth

Today, the lines between on- and off-premises IT are becoming ever blurrier. With so much ebb and flow of secondary data moving to and from the cloud now, the Veeam portion of this combined solution fits really well. And Nutanix technology is going to be equally great at providing a “cloud-like experience” when it comes to protecting data residing on-premises.

For an IT architect, it’s all about making the right technology decision *and* the right business decision. In some cases, moving backup data to the cloud is the right thing to do. Fortunately, Veeam makes that process easy and flexible. And if it ever becomes necessary or at least prudent to bring some secondary data back on-premises, the Nutanix appliance and its AOS operating system will keep on providing the cloud-like experience/interface.

There’s no right or wrong answer. You are going to need both on- and off-premises protection. That means you also need a comprehensive data protection and management solution designed for exactly that type of modern IT environment.

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