

Ivy League Uses Komprise to Boost Support & Adoption of Secondary Storage



Profile

An Ivy League university provides Storage-as-a-Service (STaaS) from Central IT to the various departments. Central IT offers different classes of storage at different chargeback price points, but getting departments to adopt a mix of primary and secondary storage was a challenge.

Challenges

A key challenge for IT was to get the buy-in from departments to optimize their storage footprint. Since central IT lacked visibility into the data on the department's storage, they were unable to illustrate how much of their data was hot or cold and how much they could save by archiving cold data. As a result, the adoption of secondary storage was low.

Furthermore, departments were worried that by moving the data, students, faculty, and applications would lose file access and be disrupted.

As a result, data tended to stay where users put it. This meant that the data was not only consuming expensive storage space, but the cold data was being protected and replicated the same way as hot data, which is highly inefficient.

Solution

Using Komprise, Central IT was able to set up groups of shares by department and also analyze how each department's data was growing and being used. In turn, central IT was able to provide each department with the analysis of how the data was being used, by who, and what data was cold. Additionally, they were able to provide a cost analysis of how much the department would save by transparently archiving the cold data with Komprise.

Each department was then able to set their own specified policies and then use those policies to move and transparently archive their data, without any changes to users or applications. This process not only cut storage costs and improved efficiency, but also engendered greater cooperation between central IT and the departments.

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The addition of Komprise in our file sharing infrastructure has significantly improved our understanding of the data. The ability to see the types, size, ages, and ownership of the files has improved the data management for both my team and clients of our service. Being able to sit down with clients and show them the data allows a level of understanding that was never before available.

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Steve DeGroat

Manager Enterprise Storage, Top
Research University



Key Benefits

Central IT Provides Data Insights to Departments

The university was able to plan intelligently with analytics and understanding of data usage and growth and cost modeling of different “what-if” scenarios for each department.

Data Archival and Replication Policies by Department

They were able to get a DR copy in the cloud without any interruption to students, faculty, or their network activities, and without any changes to network or storage infrastructure.

Storage Cost Savings without Changes to User or Application Access

Departments are able to realize storage cost savings without users or applications seeing any changes – moved files are accessible as before, regardless of whether they are in the cloud as objects or on secondary archive storage.

Collaboration between Central IT and departments

Sitting down and showing insights into the data provides a greater level of understanding between the departments and Central IT, fostering stronger collaboration



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