Northwestern cuts data storage costs in half with Komprise

"We didn't know what the data was, who owned it, or when it was last used...
Now we set policies to move data off to cheaper media. We save ~$330,000 a year."

Kenneth-David Turner
IT manager, Northwestern University

Northwestern University

The Challenge

With its strong research focus, Northwestern University generates massive data. When faculty members initiate research, data goes first to a central pool. Research data holdings have extended to billions of files and many petabytes of unstructured data, such as medical imaging and data from other fields. The University's growing challenges were storage capacity and classification.

"We didn't know what the data was, who owned it, or when it was last used," said IT manager Kenneth-David Turner. "We needed to stay ahead of capacity demands and to be compliant."

They needed a solution to help solve the following issues:

- Understanding what data they had and where different types should live
- Inability to easily migrate data
- Rising NAS costs
- Increasing capacity demands

Profile

- Private research university
- 21,600 students
- >100 affiliated research centers

Results

- Reduced storage from $1.1M to $680K/year
- Create custom archiving plans for different research groups
- Automates moving cold data to the cloud per policy
- Zero data access disruption to researchers

The Solution

After trying other solutions, including writing manual scripts, the University eventually chose and deployed Komprise. A key feature was its use of open standards, making Komprise "storage agnostic." Northwestern deployed Komprise "observers" and proxies at its datacenter with a director offsite at the supplier site. Each working group set their own policies, (e.g., retention time and exclusion of certain directories) and data is automatically moved off to cheaper media. "The cost per terabyte in object/cloud is two-thirds cheaper than what we pay on primary storage," says Turner.

The Results

"One of the most invaluable things is the intelligence Komprise has given us," said Turner. "It allows us to both identify the right data and move it too." With Komprise, Northwestern was able to achieve the following results:

- **Reduce storage costs** from $1.1M to $680K/year
- **Conduct data capacity planning** and set flexible policies
- **Create custom archiving plans** for different research groups
- **Move cold data** from Isilon to Elastic Cloud Storage and AWS Deep Glacier cloud storage
- **Zero data access disruption** to researchers

"Everyone is really happy with Komprise. The intelligence it's giving us and the cost savings we're seeing are tremendous."

About Komprise

Komprise empowers businesses to take control of their data with no interference to applications, users, or hot data. Komprise Intelligent Data Management is the foundation for analytics-driven data management which is key to putting data in the right place at the right time across all storage. Analyze, move, and easily find your data with Komprise.

Learn More

Experience a complimentary trial of Komprise in your own environment to see the true picture of your data and how much you can save. Visit: **komprise.com**

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Komprise, Inc.
1901 S. Bascom Ave. Suite 400
Campbell, CA 95008
United States

For more information:
Call: 1-888-995-0290
Email: **info@komprise.com**
Visit: **komprise.com**

For media requests email
marketing@komprise.com
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