



1st Security Bank Tackles Rapid Expansion with Enterprise Backup and Recovery Solution from Cohesity

1ST SECURITY BANK

INDUSTRY

Finance

USE CASES

Backup and Recovery, Dev/Test

COHESITY SOLUTIONS

VMware, Microsoft

SOLUTION PARTNER

CDW

Key Benefits

- Ease and use of implementation was so simple the solution was up and running within two hours.
- Intuitive user interface eliminated requirement for specialized IT staff training. Help desk associates can now interface with employees for search and restore.
- Backup jobs went from taking hours to just over two minutes.
- Recovery times are now instant and disaster recovery planning does not require getting in a car to drive to a physical location.

With offices and branches throughout the state of Washington, 1st Security Bank provides loan and deposit services to a wide variety of customers, including small and middle-market businesses. The Washington-based bank was founded in 1936 and has 21 branches and seven loan production offices in the greater Puget Sound region, as well as a loan production office in the Tri-Cities area of eastern Washington.

FS Bancorp, Inc. (NASDAQ:FSBW) is the holding company for 1st Security Bank of Washington and has seen tremendous growth in the last several years, adding additional branches through acquisition and expansion. The bank is pleased to offer lending programs for home buyers, local contractors, builders, mortgage companies, as well as boat dealerships. 1st Security also gives back in a variety of programs and activities to help strengthen local communities.

Challenges

In the last five years, data at 1st Security has grown eight-fold, and legacy backup and storage solutions were unable to keep up with the expanding data footprint. In the banking world, financial institutions are legally required to retain and protect data for long periods of time, including retaining all loan documentation seven years past the closing date. This means that in the case of a 30 year loan, banks may need to save documentation for nearly four decades.

With data growing exponentially, 1st Security needed a solution that would not require a forklift upgrade every few years, but could scale with the growing company and data requirements. The existing backup solution was cumbersome and manageability was becoming a challenge. When looking to undergo a capacity upgrade the solution required a complete replacement. In addition, restoring files required combing through backups to finally restore the files. If a complete restore of a system needed to occur it would take hours, if not days.

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"As a financial institution, we try to utilize technology to provide the best experience possible for our customers and users, and have strict enterprise data backup and recovery requirements. Cohesity is a cut above all other solutions we researched and they provided a scale-out solution for simplified disaster recovery and application availability. Where previous backup solutions took up to five days, Cohesity performed the same operation in just over a minute."

System Administrator, 1st Security Bank of Washington

The IT team manages two separate data centers with a 99% virtual environment running VMware and Microsoft Hyper-V. 1st Security aimed for the following capabilities in its next data protection solution:

- Simplify user interface and manageability
- Scalable solution with easy cloud integration
- Meet backup SLAs for RPO and RTO
- Management integration with VMware

Solution

The bank had an existing data protection solution, but was concerned about ongoing maintenance costs, plus tedious upgrades and backups. Not positioned to move to a 100 percent software-defined solution, the IT team knew it would need to do a complete refresh of the existing backup and recovery infrastructure. After extensive research, 1st Security narrowed down the selection to three vendors, and ultimately chose Cohesity.

Cohesity's hyperconverged secondary data platform was chosen to consolidate all secondary workloads and data services at web-scale. Cohesity's integration with both VMware and Microsoft Hyper-V allowed instant recovery of applications by running the clones directly on the Cohesity platform.

Cohesity automated policy management simplified scheduling and running backup jobs to address business SLA in form of RPOs and RTOs. Forklift upgrades became a thing of the past with Cohesity's non-disruptive upgrades, which meant the IT team never had to bring down the entire cluster and could add nodes on the fly. 1st Security utilizes the Cohesity platforms for more than just backups, and takes advantage of the solution for test/dev to ensure changes and application development are secure before launching into a production environment.

Results

Since 2015, the bank has almost doubled the number of branches to serve local customers. 1st Security is poised for continued growth in the next several years, and Cohesity delivers an enterprise secondary data management solution to position the company to meet data requirements, as well as simplify management, upgrades, and maintenance of its entire secondary data infrastructure.

"Other solutions advertised 'enterprise quality' but had an enterprise price tag. Cohesity not only could deliver what other enterprise solutions promised, but was also able to out-perform and deliver a software-defined secondary data management solution that has saved us countless hours for upgrades, maintenance, and basic restore operations. Cohesity has been instrumental in the midst of 700 percent growth in data over the last five years, and enabled 1st Security Bank to consolidate our storage while easily integrating within our existing IT infrastructure," explained a Systems Engineer at 1st Security Bank of Washington.

1st Security realized many benefits with Cohesity including:

- Ease and use of implementation was so simple the solution was up and running within two hours.
- Intuitive user interface eliminated requirement for specialized IT staff training. Help desk associates can now interface with employees for search and restore.
- Backup jobs went from taking hours to just over two minutes.
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Recap

1st Security Bank of Washington strives to be on the cutting-edge to deliver maximum benefits to external customers and internal employees. The Cohesity solution brings simplicity and ease of management to consolidate and simplify the secondary infrastructure. 1st Security Bank works very hard to help facilitate success for its customers, even naming one of its core values to 'wow each other and our customers every day'. Working with solution partners like Cohesity not only contributes to the company's bottom line, but helps it get one step closer to building a great place to work and bank.

