



CASE STUDY

Valley Proteins Cleans Its Backup and Recovery Environment with Cohesity

Introduction

For over 70 years, Valley Proteins, Inc. has been a leader in providing an invaluable service to the global economy and the environment. It collects and recycles animal processing waste from the food industry that otherwise would lead to environmental contamination. Valley Proteins provides disposal services to restaurants, supermarkets, slaughterhouses and poultry processing facilities throughout the mid-Atlantic, eastern and southwestern United States.

Valley Proteins' clean and efficient conversion plants recycle the waste streams (fat and bone trimmings, waste cooking oils and meat/poultry waste) into safe, high-energy feed fat and protein-rich meal products, resulting in zero-waste. These value-added sustainable ingredients provide the nutrients feed producers need to create high-quality animal feeds.

Challenges

The company's technology savvy IT team, led by Bradley Wilton, IT Director, wanted to adopt a softwaredefined architecture for its data centers that would allow the team to better address the business' growing and evolving needs. Highly scalable and flexible solutions were required to handle modern workflows, and it would have been very difficult and cost prohibitive for the team to continue using its existing EMC solution for primary and secondary storage.

The team deployed flash-based Pure Storage for its primary storage and wanted similar benefits of scalability, ease of use and management from its secondary storage platform. With its Dell EMC Data Domain reaching capacity and an upcoming renewal of Dell EMC Avamar, the team started to evaluate other available options.

The main criteria for selecting its next-gen secondary storage solution included:

- Scale-out architecture
- Lower TCO
- Simplified ease of use and management

INDUSTRY

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"Cohesity's scale-out, hyperconverged secondary storage platform allowed us to build a true Software-Defined Data Center. With DataPlatform and DataProtect, we pulled the intelligence in the software layer and were able to simplify our overall IT operations"

BRADLEY WILTON,

IT Director, Valley Proteins

Solution

Expanding its existing EMC Avamar + DataDomain would have addressed capacity issues but would have further siloed Valley Proteins' secondary storage environment. The initial CapEx and on-going OpEx were prohibitive. To adopt a scalable architecture, the team decided to replace EMC Avamar and DataDomain with Cohesity DataProtect, a hyperconverged secondary storage solution.

Cohesity allowed Valley Proteins to consolidate its backup software and target storage onto one, easy to use and manage unified solution. The close integration of DataProtect with Pure Storage FlashArray offered the team automated tier snapshots and long-term retention capabilities of its virtual and physical servers and Microsoft SQL databases.

By leveraging parallelized data ingestion and storing each backup as a fully hydrated copy on DataPlatform, the team reduced its recovery points to sub-5 minutes and achieved near-instantaneous recovery. During the proof of concept, Valley Proteins had a server fail and with Cohesity, the team was able to recover and operationalize the node 4x faster than the incumbent solution.

Results

Valley Proteins achieved scalability, ease of use and management with Cohesity, all while reducing its cost.

- Ease of use and management – The Cohesity solution comes with a simple, easy-to-use interface and dashboard, resulting in eliminating the need to manage multiple silos. By converging backup software, replication, and target storage in one unified solution, the team simplified its secondary data management.
- Scalability – Deploying on web-scale architecture with Cohesity, Valley Proteins can scale-out mixed hardware configurations and generations without any complication.
- Lower TCO – The team lowered its CapEx by leveraging a hyperconverged platform that is optimally configured for Cohesity. Cohesity's simplified management also eliminated the need to invest time and money into specialized training. A simple UI helped the team to increase its operator-to-device ratio.

Recap

Valley Proteins built a Software-Defined Data Center with Cohesity, a scale-out hyperconverged secondary storage solution. The IT team reduced its backup window time and gained operational efficiency with a unified, easy to use and manage platform, while improving its total cost of ownership (TCO).