



Novartis Cuts Data Center Costs in Half with Cohesity and AWS



INDUSTRY

Healthcare/Pharmaceuticals

USE CASE

Backup and Recovery, Cloud, Ransomware Recovery

TECHNOLOGY PARTNER

Amazon Web Services

DATA SOURCES

VMware

CHANNEL PARTNER

WEI

Key Benefits

- 50% reduction in data management costs through cloud enablement
- 5x faster restores
- Improved efficiencies and IT staff productivity
- Risk mitigation peace of mind

Businesses worldwide are accelerating cloud adoption. Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, the scientific-research arm of the large pharmaceutical company, is all-in on native cloud technologies to modernize IT. Since deploying Cohesity for backup and recovery and seamlessly replicating that data to Amazon Web Services (AWS) for archival, the pharmaceutical company has cut its data management costs by 50 percent, improved efficiency, and regained staff time for innovation while boosting peace of mind.

Challenges

Before the pandemic, the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research CEO challenged internal organizations to consider the cloud first so that IT could adapt faster and keep pace with the speed of healthcare. That would be nearly impossible for IT staff managing legacy Data Domain for backup and recovery. Adopting AWS would disrupt existing processes. Supporting cloud with the traditional backup solutions would take significant manual effort to configure and manage accelerators and cloud adaptors, and restores would still be questionable.

Facing a costly, forklift upgrade of Data Domain licensing and support across its worldwide data centers, Novartis began to evaluate newer backup solutions for its databases and virtual machines (VMs) that would seamlessly integrate with AWS. It evaluated Rubrik, Commvault, and Cohesity, looking at key criteria that included simplicity, data consistency, immutability, and rapid restores for business continuity and protection against ransomware.



“With Cohesity, we’ve cut our data center costs in half by eliminating legacy backup products and tiering replicated data in the cloud—first to Amazon S3, then to Glacier after 30 days.”

Amit Singh, Senior Storage Architect, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research

“Cohesity was a single, web-scale solution supporting multicloud, so we leaned toward it,” said Amit Singh, senior storage architect at Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research. “Then, we put together a presentation showing how we could replace Data Domain and gain not only cost savings but efficiencies that would allow IT staff to work on additional high priority projects.”

Solution

After ensuring their deployment plan adhered to strict industry regulations and included appropriate documentation and policies, Novartis rolled out Cohesity and AWS for backup and recovery in three locations—two in the U.S. and one in Europe. All geo-locations now replicate from Cohesity to AWS, archiving data to Amazon S3, and using Cohesity policy to manage the Novartis data in Amazon S3 and S3 Glacier.

“Moving to the cloud is one thing,” explained Singh, “But if your data increases tomorrow, how do you sustain that growth? Cohesity’s native integration with the AWS cloud is a great feature and we were able to tune the tiering to meet our requirements.”

With its previous solution, Novartis IT had to manually manage 40-50 backup policies, run scripts, and regularly troubleshoot backups. Today, IT automatically manages more than 3 petabytes of backup data across 72 Cohesity nodes globally with just a handful of automated policies classified and tagged in VMware vCenter using Cohesity’s tight VMware integration. “Cohesity is easy to manage,” Singh said. “Once we set it, we know it’s going to work.”

Restores are easier and faster, too, as well as being self-service, so any operational resource could complete the task. That wasn’t the case before Cohesity because only a few people knew the process and they weren’t in all regions. “Now, most of IT can perform a restore without training because Cohesity is so intuitive,” said Singh.

Cohesity also provides peace of mind. Cloning capabilities allow Novartis to restore environments quickly—with multiple versions if needed—while proactive anomaly detection alerts IT to investigate suspicious events found in collected data patterns cluster wide. Additionally, Cohesity provides protection from ransomware with features that deter and detect threats as well as enable rapid recovery at scale to any point in time.

Results

Cloud-native Cohesity and AWS deployment enabled Novartis to eliminate data center hardware and space. Novartis now has a more efficient and cost-effective solution that will scale as the company’s data continues to grow.

Novartis has achieved the following benefits with Cohesity:

- 50% reduction in data management costs through cloud enablement
- 5x faster restores
- Improved efficiencies and IT staff productivity
- Risk mitigation peace of mind

About Novartis

Novartis is a leading global medicines company using innovative science and digital technologies to create transformative treatments in areas of great medical need. It consistently ranks among the world’s top companies investing in research and development. Novartis medicines reach nearly 800 million people globally and about 110,000 people of more than 140 nationalities work at Novartis around the world.

Learn more at [Cohesity.com](https://www.cohesity.com)

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