



# Large US Credit Union Selects Cohesity for Next-Gen Data Management with Improved Security



## INDUSTRY

Financial Services

## USE CASE

Backup and Recovery, Disaster Recovery, File and Object

## COHESITY SOLUTIONS

DataProtect, SmartFiles

## SOLUTION PARTNERS

VMware ESX Hypervisor  
Microsoft Azure

## Key Benefits

- Increased data security and reduced the risk of ransomware
- Simplified system management with just one vendor for file and object and backup solutions
- Reduced daily backup windows by over 99%
- Slashed management time by over 65%
- Saved \$10K per month by migrating away from tape

Today's enterprises are working hard to protect their customers' confidential data and proprietary company information. But no industry is more highly targeted by cybercriminals than the financial industry. One of the largest credit unions in the United States was managing a complex data management environment that was due for an upgrade. By moving to Cohesity, this financial institution was able to improve data security, reduce their backup windows by over 99%, cut IT management time by over 65%, and save over \$10K per month by migrating off of tape backups.

## Challenges

This large US credit union was relying on an aging Veritas NetBackup implementation, with Dell EMC Isilon NAS storage systems. When both environments were concurrently due for a refresh, the IT team began the search for a better solution. In addition to refreshing the existing data protection environment, the credit union needed additional capacity for several new customer-facing banking services, back-office applications, and other financial systems.

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“The importance of using the same vendor for our backup and file and object services can't be understated. By offering a complete and powerful solution for both environments, Cohesity significantly improves our ability to protect and secure our valuable data, simplifies system management, and streamlines ongoing support.”

– Gurdeep, Senior Systems Engineer, Large US Credit Union

The credit union had been using Dell EMC Isilon systems for primary NAS storage, but they had a lot of challenges replicating and serving up that data. They had to leverage the DFS namespace and replication server on Microsoft, and then use Superna's scale-out NAS data protection solutions for the Isilon. They wanted to find a solution that was simpler to use. To further increase management efficiency, they were also hoping to use the same vendor for their backup and NAS environments.

## Solution

After reviewing the available options, the IT team narrowed the search to Veritas and Cohesity. "We were very impressed by the depth and breadth of the Cohesity platform," said Gurdeep, senior systems engineer. "Cohesity offers solutions for backup, file and object services, and cloud, as well as a full portfolio of Marketplace apps that can be installed directly on the platform. But the best thing about Cohesity is that it doesn't look like the Veritas solution. We were tired of dealing with all of that complexity."

The credit union conducted rigorous testing to make sure Cohesity met all of its requirements. They measured how quickly they could back up everything in the VMware ESX environment and how fast data could be recovered. According to the SE, they were amazed at the speed and functionality of the Cohesity solution.

Running atop the Cohesity Helios platform, the credit union implemented Cohesity DataProtect for backup and recovery, as well as Cohesity SmartFiles for file and object services. They purchased enough capacity for five years, with 10-12% projected year-over-year growth. SmartFiles simplifies data and application management by providing one solution for all of our workloads. It enabled the credit union to consolidate all data silos and securely manage both application data and backup data sets.

## Results

Cohesity has greatly improved the credit union's ability to back up data quickly and recover from any potential data breaches. Full backups of the 1,500 VMs used to take over 24 hours. They now take less than 6-9 hours.

To enhance data security, the credit union makes use of DataLock: a write-once-read-many (WORM) feature that empowers the assigned 'Data Security' role in Cohesity to prevent backed up, archived, and replicated data from being deleted until the DataLock expires. "Our systems and data are incredibly more secure now that we've implemented Cohesity with DataLock," noted the systems engineer.

"With that extra layer of protection, I no longer have to worry when a recovery ticket comes in. I used to get a lump in my throat when asked to restore anything in our previous environment. With Cohesity, that worry is completely gone."

The large credit union's IT team had been spending 30-40% of their time managing the old systems. Cohesity is much easier to manage since the credit union is no longer using the Microsoft DFS name server for replication. The 15 hours per week spent managing the NAS and backup infrastructure has dropped to just five hours per week. With less time dedicated to storage management, the team can deliver new services and applications much faster and their ticketing queue is also much shorter.

The credit union is now using the Cohesity Helios data management platform to obtain a single view of all of their data and applications. "Helios makes my job much easier," said Gurdeep, systems engineer. "I get a daily report that verifies everything is backed up and replicated. I also get weekly emails on capacity usage. Previously, I had to go back and look at how much data we'd been backing up and then figure in our growth projections. It involved a lot of tedious forensic work with numerous spreadsheets and manual calculations. Now everything is already documented. Cohesity's predictive reports are saving me a lot of time and eliminating my capacity planning headaches."

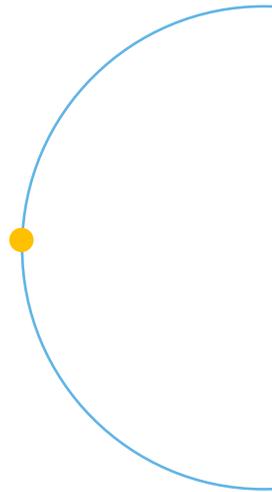
Also, moving away from tape to Cohesity was very cost effective for the credit union. Previously, the IT team had been creating two copies of tapes and sending them to separate data centers. With Cohesity, they create one backup and just send a copy to the other center. Cohesity makes it very easy to make copies, it's essentially a 'drag and drop' exercise. In addition to the simplicity, getting rid of tape for the Windows backups is saving the credit union over \$10,000 per month.

The move to Cohesity also made it easier to scale the environment since they don't have to make any changes to the system to add more capacity. With Cohesity, they can grow the environment one node at a time and know they are protected.

This financial institution is now getting ready to use Microsoft Azure for cloud backups. They already have a pipe up to Azure, but they were still backing up to the financial institution's DR site. "It's great that Cohesity seamlessly integrates with AWS, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud. When we get ready to move data from on-prem to the cloud, we can easily use Cohesity to protect that data as well," noted the senior systems engineer.

With Cohesity, this large credit union has achieved the following benefits:

- Increased data security and reduced the risk of ransomware
- Simplified data management with just one vendor for file and object and backup solutions
- Reduced daily backup windows by over 99%
- Slashed management time by over 65%
- Saved \$10K per month by migrating away from tape



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

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