

Large Healthcare Services Provider Significantly Reduces Physical & Online Storage Footprint

Company Summary

This company provides leading IT solutions and managed services for Healthcare entities that power the highest levels of performance for the benefit of clients. They operate multiple geographically dispersed data centers, including two of the nation's largest health care data centers, both rated among the top five percent of data centers worldwide by MIPS.

The company's decades of experience in the government, commercial and education markets, drive innovation, industry-standard security and reliability and efficiency. Their scalable, client focused solutioning approach is trusted by customers in all 50 states as well as countries outside the U.S




Challenge Summary

Multiple relocations and growth on the **IBM Z platform** requiring deep archival of data using cloud based virtual tape solutions that could be simultaneously accessed from multiple data centers. The rapid growth of historical or older data made it impractical to continue storing on online and physical storage.

Solution Summary

The healthcare service provider expanded its existing Luminex Channel Gateway X (CGX) environment to support a new data center with IBM Z, integrating Luminex CloudTAPE connectivity to extend its data protection and archive capabilities. This architecture enabled the organization to move deep archival data to cloud-only storage, significantly reducing both physical and online storage footprints while still maintaining immediate, on-demand access to archived data when required. By leveraging the strengths of IBM Z alongside Luminex, the provider achieved greater operational efficiency, simplified system management, and improved overall agility. IBM Z's inherent advantages in reliability, performance, and total cost of ownership, combined with Luminex's complementary tooling, allowed the organization to seamlessly extend its environment to a new data center without disrupting existing workflows or compromising access to critical data.

Results Summary

-  Migration of data to a cloud only storage reduced the online physical storage footprint
-  Reduced on-site virtual tape storage footprint
-  Flexible Cloud Storage retrieval options allowed for easy recall of data as needed

Breaking Down the Challenge

Luminex's challenge was to resolve the company's needs for deep archival storage with minimal changes to their operations and recovery. Because the existing solution contained multiple Petabytes (PB) of archival data, it was necessary that the archival storage target was flexible and could be accessed from multiple data centers. Doing a full data migration of this data for each storage upgrade or data center move would have been costly and time consuming. Additionally, because much of the data was archive data, it was necessary to have a storage solution that did not consume valuable local storage that would be costly to migrate.

Deep Dive into The Solution

An analysis of the customer's tape environment determined that a significant portion of the data met the criteria for placement in an archive cloud storage tier. Leveraging the resilience, availability, and data integrity of IBM Z, the data center migration strategy allowed archival data to exist as a cloud-only copy, eliminating the need to physically migrate tapes or duplicate storage across sites. This approach enabled secure, centralized access to archived data from multiple IBM Z-enabled data centers while future-proofing the environment against physical storage refreshes and online capacity expansions. When archival data is required, it is seamlessly and transparently retrieved directly from the cloud target without impacting production operations.

Deep Archival Data – Cloud Only Storage

