

ESG SHOWCASE

Data Protection Strategies for Nutanix

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ABSTRACT: IT infrastructure is in constant evolution. The latest example of this is the fast-paced adoption of converged and hyperconverged systems by organizations to simply and more effectively run critical virtual workloads in an infrastructure that is increasingly becoming hybrid with the use of multi-cloud environments. Protecting these environments is therefore critical for organizations to deliver on service levels. In the case of Nutanix environments, by building on existing platform capabilities and adding its “secret sauce,” HYCU delivers a powerful “native” data protection hybrid solution. It is available as software or as secondary storage that every IT professional using Nutanix should consider.

Market Landscape

The storage and IT landscape has drastically changed in the past few years, with the emergence of new platforms designed to simply and more effectively run critical virtual workloads in an infrastructure that is increasingly becoming hybrid with the use of multi-cloud environments.

Recent ESG research shows that while cloud-first topologies are holding steady, hybrid cloud deployments are gaining ground at the expense of on-premises-first strategies. Cloud usage is ubiquitous, and most remaining workloads will be cloud candidates in the next five years. 2020 brought significant additional public cloud adoption, with 67% of organizations using infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS) this year versus 51% in 2018.¹

In the recent past, we have seen the emergence and the adoption acceleration of cloud in enterprise backup and recovery topologies,² against a backdrop of multi-cloud adoption. Organizations often end up “retrofitting” their existing environments to these new platforms that leverage their own hypervisor capabilities or consider solutions that may not be fully integrated. When it comes to data protection, tradeoffs created by favoring broad platform coverage rather than deep platform protection or purpose-built cloud integration can lead to unacceptable data loss exposures. In addition, ease of use has become a much needed capability across IT (and, as a consequence, for data protection) with nearly two-thirds of survey respondents (64%) saying IT is more complex compared to two years ago (see Figure 1). It should also be noted that improving data protection tops the list of data center modernization investment priorities.³

ESG research also shows that the market is rapidly evolving, as modern and hybrid data protection capabilities and solutions are now available for hyperconverged platforms. These are in the process of becoming the on-premises backup solution of choice for many organizations.⁴ The success of vendors like Nutanix in the past few years is testament to the adoption of these solutions.

¹ Source: ESG Research Report, [2020 Technology Spending Intentions Survey](#), February 2020.

² Source: ESG Master Survey Results, [Data Protection Cloud Strategies](#), June 2019.

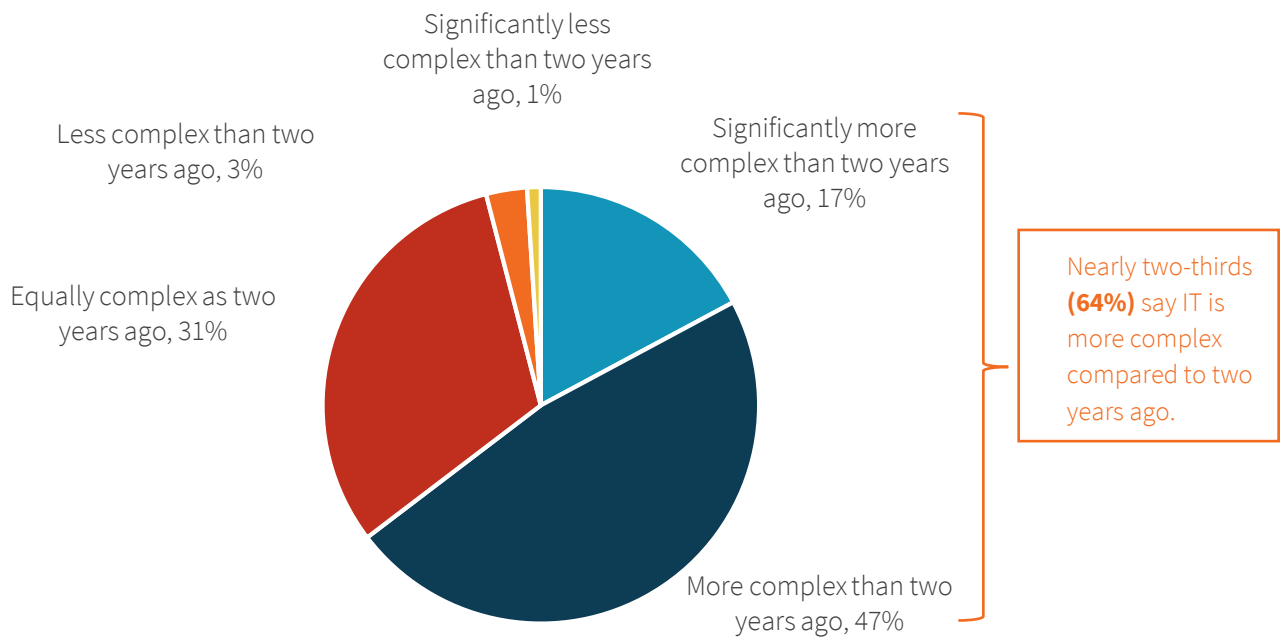
³ Source: ESG Master Survey Results, [2020 Technology Spending Intentions Survey](#), January 2020.

⁴ Source: ESG Master Survey Results, [2018 Data Protection Landscape Survey](#), November 2018.

Challenges can also be opportunities, as is often the case in IT. While organizations need to protect hyperconverged environments like Nutanix in a way that meets demanding hybrid enterprise needs, they also have an opportunity to leverage these environments in the process, or even make them data protection “engines.” This is where HYCU sets itself apart.

Figure 1. IT Isn't Getting Easier

**In general, how complex is your organization's IT environment relative to two years ago?
(Percent of respondents, N=658)**



Source: Enterprise Strategy Group

HYCU to the Rescue

HYCU has been developed from the ground up for enterprises that are adopting Nutanix by experts on the platform. It is the first solution to market that leverages Nutanix APIs and is hypervisor-agnostic, with support for AHV, ESX, Nutanix Files, Volumes, and Objects. Since it runs on an integrated software appliance, a vApp, it's easy to set up.

Integration into the Nutanix environment is the key to success, and HYCU achieves this integration in a number of ways. Like in many successful and modern solutions, ease of deployment is critical. HYCU's look and feel will seem familiar to Prism users, and, unlike other solutions in the market, it is purpose-built through extensive integration and not “bolted-on,” application-centric and application-aware, and designed with the Nutanix Enterprise Cloud in mind.

Recently, HYCU announced the next logical step to better protect Nutanix environments: a deep partnership with Nutanix to deliver a secondary storage solution. As outlined previously, these solutions are very popular with end-users and their adoption is accelerating. Nutanix Mine with HYCU is a secondary storage solution based on the Nutanix platform and is combined with HYCU's natively integrated backup service. This tightly integrated and dedicated secondary storage delivers backup and recovery as a native service of the platform, eliminates the need for siloed infrastructure for backup, allows end-users to modularly grow backup capacity, supports SLAs for application availability, and increases operational and economic efficiencies.

HYCU keeps adding capabilities to its solution for Nutanix and is more broadly executing on a multi-cloud strategy through unified management. On the Nutanix front, recent updates have added complete coverage for Nutanix Files, support for physical Windows servers, enterprise-class management capabilities for multiple instances, cost-efficient rapid recovery even from public clouds, intelligent automation of deployments and restores, enhanced reporting, additional protection for applications, and the full spectrum of storage methods available on the platform.

The company also recently introduced HYCU Protégé to specifically address multi-cloud data protection by unifying data protection “under one roof” to help end-users leverage simplified capabilities to “lift and shift” their applications from one on-premises or cloud primary location to another cloud and ensure data protection through the process. In addition, this new console provides a mechanism for customers to recover specific applications onto a different cloud for test and dev and delivers a cost-effective disaster recovery option across clouds.

The Bigger Truth

IT organizations that are considering investing in a Nutanix infrastructure, or already have, need to protect data assets, VMs, and applications that run their business on this platform. Using HYCU or Nutanix Mine powered by HYCU makes a lot of sense, since HYCU delivers a Nutanix-native and enterprise-class data protection solution for at-scale deployments.

Its Nutanix-native design and advanced capabilities are a plus to deliver operational efficiency for Nutanix on-premises and cloud environments as a hybrid software or appliance solution. HYCU does so through technology that focuses on the virtual infrastructure and the business-critical applications in a way that is simple—through the Nutanix-native integration and the workflows it implements, including some level of automation.

More importantly, the solution is focused on recoverability: after all, who cares about backup? Getting VMs and associated data back is what matters. Integrating with Nutanix Enterprise Cloud is also important to take full advantage of the investment.

However, few environments are totally uniform. As organizations leverage multi-cloud environments, they find that the need to deploy a versatile solution to natively protect data and applications in this complex hybrid infrastructure is becoming more pressing. While HYCU has been laser-focused up to now on specific environments, delivering simple platform-focused solutions designed with high levels of integration, it is now executing on a strategy to expand the reach of its technology to new environments, like Google Cloud and Azure Cloud, and in new ways where it has a strong foothold already with the Nutanix Mine secondary storage solution. HYCU is a company to watch, and a solution for end-users to consider.

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