Protecting BlackLine's Nutanix Infrastructure

Financial Services Success Story | BlackLine

Solution Highlights

Industry | Financial Services

Protected Platforms:
- Nutanix HCI Platforms
- Nutanix AHV

Solution
- 2 x Unitrends Recovery Series 823S

Benefits
- Integrated protection for AHV
- Rapid file recovery
- Full disaster recovery

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> **Walt Lockwood**
> **Systems Administrator**
> **BlackLine**
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Customer Profile

Based in Woodland Hills, CA, BlackLine has become a leading provider of cloud software that automates and controls the entire financial close process. Their vision is to modernize the finance and accounting function to enable greater operational effectiveness and agility. They now have almost 200,000 users in over 150 countries. Walt Lockwood is a Systems Administrator in charge of managing BlackLine's IT infrastructure.

The Challenge

BlackLine needed to update their entire infrastructure to manage their rapid growth. Previously they were using Cisco UCS, NetApp storage and Datto for data protection and found the administration to be very demanding. They have two data centers to manage, one remote and one located at the headquarters. A complicating factor was that Datto wanted BlackLine to utilize their cloud for data protection. Since BlackLine has their own cloud they did not want to have to use another.

The Solution

To prepare for growth and reduce the administrative burden BlackLine chose Nutanix Acropolis hyperconverged platforms running AHV. "I was a huge VMware fan so I was the last VMware holdout" said Lockwood. "I could not see how AHV could match VMware's performance." Now Lockwood is a Nutanix convert. "I love AHV. The VMware charges were killing us and AHV has superior performance." To protect the new Nutanix environment BlackLine purchased two Unitrends Recovery Series 823S hardware appliances. Unitrends and Nutanix have integrated hypervisor-level support for Nutanix AHV to provide native, agent-less protection for Nutanix workloads. One Unitrends Recovery Series appliance is deployed in the remote data center and the other in the main office building. The two devices replicate to each other as they are located far enough apart to be unaffected by a single downtime event. The Unitrends appliances manage data replication and, although the Nutanix platforms and Unitrends offer somewhat overlapping DR capabilities, BlackLine has Unitrends managing disaster recovery.

The Results

"The new combined Nutanix / Unitrends solution works great." said Lockwood. "The integration was a breeze. We have had to recover multiple lost files, and what was once a major chore is now a very simple process." One aspect of working with Unitrends that Lockwood wanted to call out was Unitrends Service. "Support has been great from Day 1. We had an issue with the initial setup and the Unitrends Service Engineer took control of the system and just fixed the problem. Between Unitrends and Nutanix I have two of the most easily managed solutions there must be."

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