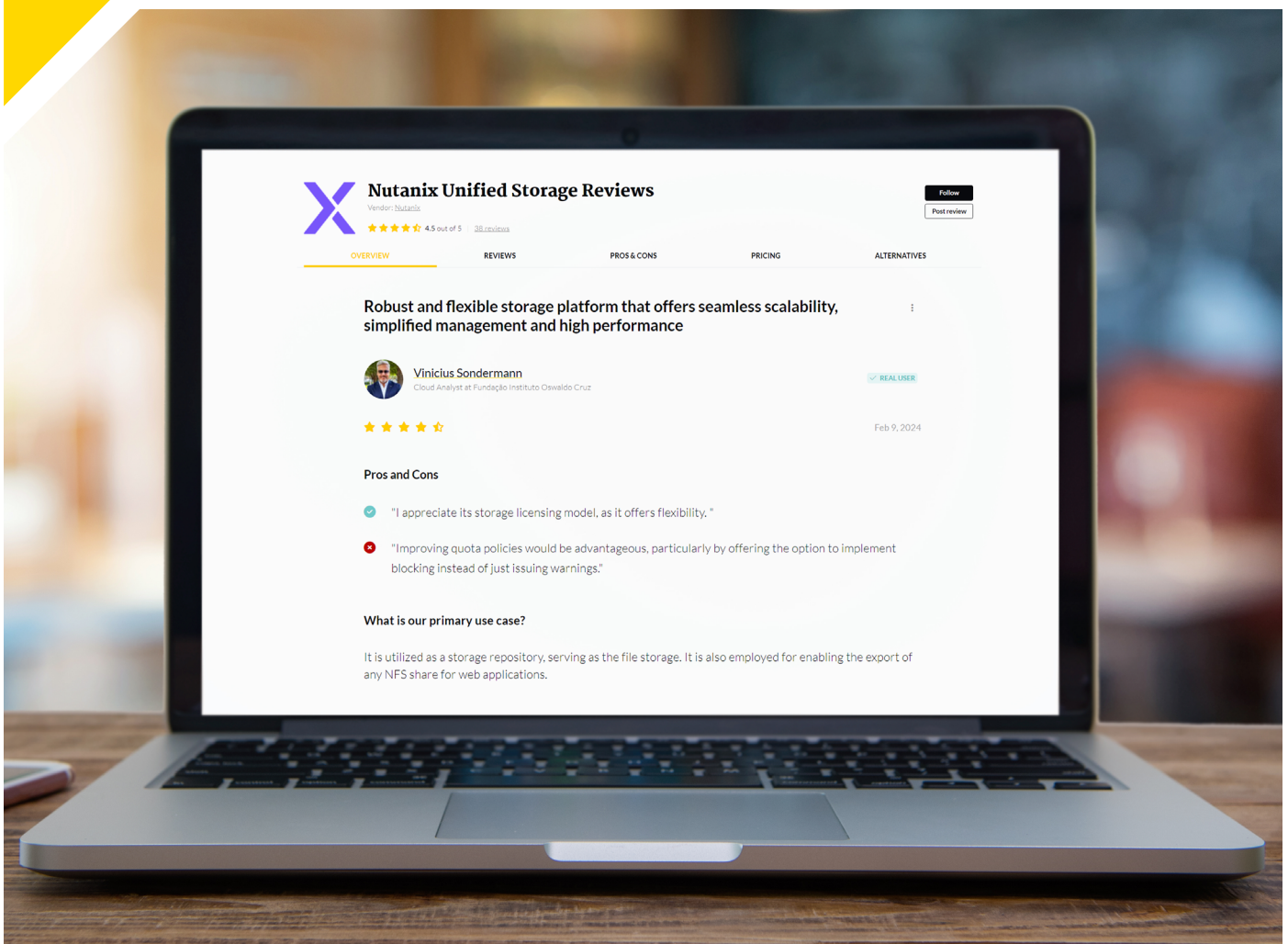


PeerPaper™ Report 2024

Based on Real User Experiences with Nutanix Unified Storage

10 Key Success Factors for Software-Defined Storage with Modern Data Services Platforms



Contents

Page 1.	Introduction
Page 2.	Understanding How Storage Practitioners and IT Leaders Struggle with Legacy Storage
Page 5.	TOP 10 attributes of a Software-Defined Data Services Platform
Page 5.	#1 - Consolidation Capabilities
Page 8.	#2 - Scalability and the Ability to Handle Unstructured Data
Page 10.	#3 - Security
Page 13.	#4 - Global Access Management
Page 14.	#5 - Flexibility
Page 16.	#6 - Resiliency
Page 18.	#7 - Quality of Support
Page 19.	#8 - Ease of Use, Management, and Setup
Page 20.	#9 - Non-Disruptive Upgrades
Page 22.	#10 - Data Analytics
Page 25.	Conclusion

Introduction

Data sprawl and the growth of unstructured data are straining legacy storage solutions and driving unsustainable cost increases in storage management. Traditional storage systems are generally complex to set up and operate, require specialized skills, and create additional infrastructure silos. Customers must buy a number of third-party software and hardware products to store and protect data against ransomware attacks. Traditional storage solutions tend to be rigid, with fixed performance and capped capacities. They are costly to upgrade and difficult to protect. In addition, procuring traditional storage requires upfront capacity planning and financial budgeting.

Over time, these traditional storage systems create storage siloes that are hard to manage, do not scale well, and are difficult to protect against cyber threats. The problem becomes more severe as more and more application owners and project managers demand self-service storage provisioning. Software-defined storage (SDS) offers a way forward with a data services platform. It offers a flexible, simple to use, easy to scale, globally distributed storage that legacy storage simply cannot meet.

Not all SDS solutions are made equal, however. This paper looks at 10 key success factors for SDS. These are the qualities that storage practitioners should look for in a modern storage and data management solution. Based on feedback from real user experiences with Nutanix Unified Storage (NUS), they comprise 10 functional areas that enable storage practitioners, IT leaders, storage admins, and CIOs to address challenges related to managing and protecting unstructured data. They also explore how costly legacy storage environments are hard to manage and secure, and speak to the challenges of consolidating storage platforms, security, global access management, and more.

Understanding How Storage Practitioners and IT Leaders Struggle with Legacy Storage

Storage management has never been easy, but as data footprints grow and storage practitioners are asked to support a host of modern applications, legacy storage solutions are proving themselves to be rigid, expensive, administratively cumbersome, and challenging to scale. As Gupta Kg, a Cloud Operations Manager at a consumer goods company with over 10,000 employees explained, before his company implemented NUS, “Extending storage required extensive follow-ups and project activities, taking months to complete.”

Clearly, this particular experience is indicative of the complexity of upgrading legacy storage. With legacy storage, the admins spend valuable time just to keep the lights on instead of planning and offering value added activities for applications. These factors contribute to high costs for legacy storage.

A healthcare company with more than 500 employees struggled with an aging storage vendor and a three-tier architecture. Their Network Administrator, Justin Johnson, said, “We had to constantly spend a lot of money on purchasing storage to meet our demands, making it quite expensive.



Gupta K.

Cloud Operations at a
consumer goods company
with 10,001+ employees



“Nutanix Unified Storage allows our organization to manage and run its storage from one location using a single platform.”

[Read review »](#)



IT Support Supervisor
at a local government with
201-500 employees



**“It is a good solution
if you need to unify
your organization’s
block, file, and object
storage.”**

[Read review »](#)

For Amit Gumber, an IT Operations Manager at an engineering company with more than 5,000 employees, the difficulties his team faced with legacy storage solutions from Dell and other solutions related to the “very heterogeneous network.” He said, “We were facing a lot of complexities in terms of compliance and defining processes because we had different types of storage devices in our environment.”

These experiences show the problems that organizations run into when dealing with storage siloes that are created over time with legacy storage. Over a period of 15 to 20 years, IT operations have set up storage in such a way that it ended up creating siloes. There were different teams to set up file, object, and block storage, in addition to different storage setups for apps such as mission critical, performance apps, etc. Over time, these practices created a number of storage siloes that were hard to manage. The silos also made it harder to protect the data from disasters, ransomware attacks, unintentional access, and other threats.

Performance can be an issue with legacy storage as well. As Justin Johnson shared, “We had a CIFS share from a different vendor, which resulted in significant lag and poor performance.” After implementing Nutanix and its file analytics component, they have improved their storage speed “drastically.” He added, “As a result, we are now able to share numerous files with our end users, enabling seamless collaboration. We no longer experience network bottlenecks or performance problems like before.” Latency and IOPS are big concern for applications such as virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI), where storage is consumed by remote applications and users. Storage performance is critical to end user experience.

As noted by the real-life quotes, the challenges facing storage practitioners include scaling as the data footprint grows, sprawling storage environments with too many vendors to manage, security concerns, a lack of flexibility and resiliency, among other factors. Problems with legacy storage become even worse as the number of modern applications increase, making the data volumes continue to grow rapidly. As a result, legacy storage systems are slowing down customers from creating digitally transformed organizations that can quickly and effectively respond to the fast-changing business and application storage needs. Only a modern software-defined storage system will unburden IT teams with a unified data services platform that brings file, object, and block storage services together with a simple, capacity-based consumption model.



Manager of Server and
Storage Infrastructure
at a university with
1,001-5,000 employees



“From one platform, we can deploy S3-type buckets. We can provide iSCSI-level block storage if we need to. It does a great job with home folders and departmental shares, which is what we mostly use Nutanix Unified Storage for.”

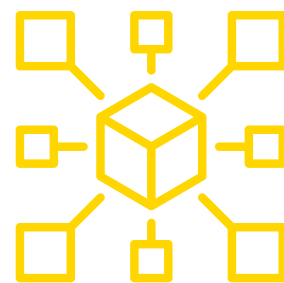
[Read review »](#)

TOP 10 attributes of a Software-Defined Data Services Platform

PeerSpot members discussed how they deployed Nutanix Unified Storage to address their challenges with storage scalability, security, and resiliency. As a software-defined data services platform, Nutanix Unified Storage removes the need for protocol specific and application specific dedicated storage systems. Nutanix Unified Storage is a software-defined data services platform that consolidates file, object, and block storage into a single platform. By removing the need for dedicated storage systems, the environment is easier to operate, allowing users to focus more on application services and less on infrastructure.

#1 – Consolidation Capabilities

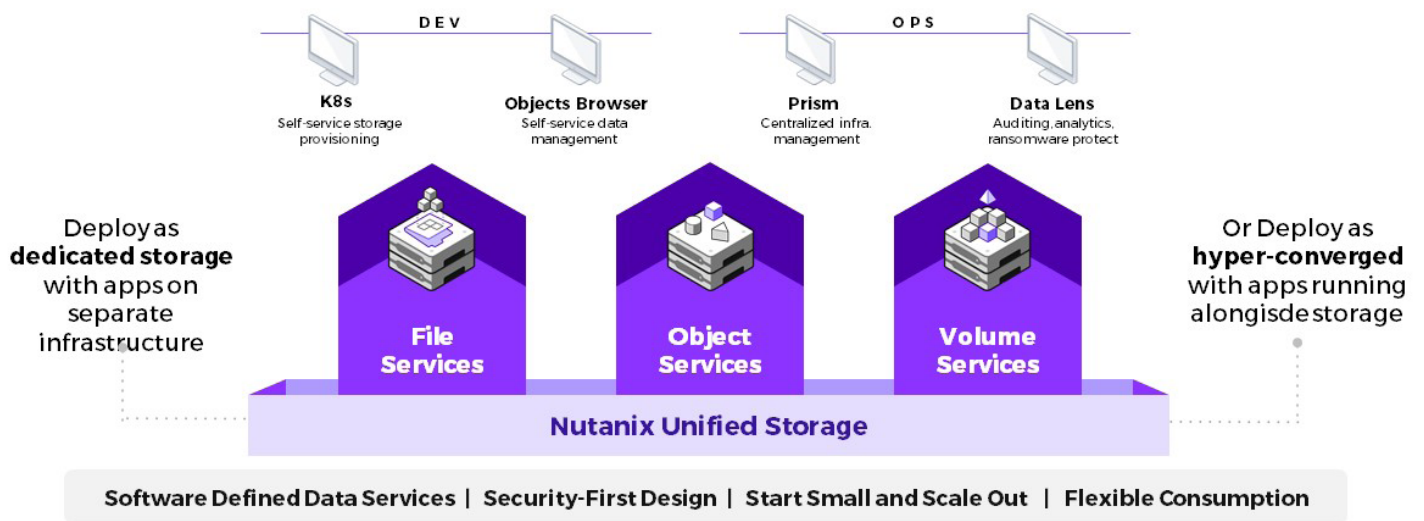
Storage practitioners want to simplify their storage architectures and avoid multiple point products by consolidating data silos. With NUS, storage admins can easily manage storage with one-click operation and automation. They can reduce data fragmentation and sprawl by consolidating files, objects, and volume storage. As a Senior Systems Engineer at a small software company explained, “By implementing the [NUS] solution, we want to get rid of traditional NAS [network attached storage], consolidate everything into a single platform and alleviate having to run file shares based on regular Windows VMs [virtual machines].” With Nutanix, he can now run his VMs and have his file shares on the same hardware, resulting in a low latency and a highly responsive application interface. With data locality, users experience faster application start times.



Centralized Management

In the words of a Manager of Server and Storage infrastructure at a university with over 1,000 employees, this means unifying block, file, and object storage. Nutanix Unified Storage “puts it all in one place,” he said. “From one platform, we can deploy S3-type buckets. We can provide iSCSI-level block storage if we need to. It does a great job with home folders and departmental shares, which is what we mostly use Nutanix Unified Storage for.”

“It is a good solution if you need to unify your organization’s block, file, and object storage,” said an IT Support Supervisor at a local government agency with more than 200 employees. He added, “If you have multiple different storage platforms or you require different formatting of your storage arrays, you can get everything on just one platform. You can manage it all in one location. That makes it much simpler to manage.”



One Software-Defined Platform for Apps and Data

Figure 1 – NUS represents one software-defined platform for both apps and data. It enables the consolidation of block, object, and file storage into a single platform and management interface.



Security and Infrastructure
Practice Manager
at a computer software company
with 51-200 employees

**“The ability to easily
add another node
as your business
grows is a major
advantage.”**

[Read review »](#)

Other Nutanix users praised the solution for its unified management. Gupta Kg said, “It’s important to have a single point of management to monitor all files, objects, and block storage services in the environment.” His team’s goal is to support the maximum range of product services and storage types to accommodate his environment.

Getting rid of storage silos was another benefit. According to Justin Johnson, “Before switching to Nutanix Unified Storage, we had a three-tiered architecture with siloed individuals who only knew specific components of that architecture. This led to a highly compartmentalized organization, with separate individuals responsible for storage, virtualization, and VDI [virtual desktop infrastructure]. Now, with Nutanix Unified Storage, all these tasks can be handled by a single administrator as they are integrated into the same system. This centralization makes management much easier as everything is now consolidated within the organization.”

Consolidation is a key success factor for software-defined storage with modern data services platforms because managing storage through multiple solutions is a burden on the IT department. By consolidating into a single, software-defined solution, storage practitioners can get rid of storage siloes and become more efficient in their work. Team productivity goes up. It also becomes easier and faster to troubleshoot as there is only one integrated system to identify and solve problems across file, block, and object storage.



Manager of Server and
Storage Infrastructure
at a university with
1,001-5,000 employees



“For a large departmental share, we can size it, scale it out, and have a large number of servers so that you can have thousands of users on it.”

[Read review »](#)

#2 – Scalability and the Ability to Handle Unstructured Data

There has been exponential growth in unstructured data, a category that includes data not stored in databases, e.g., PDF documents and email files. This growth leads to a need to scale, a critical capability, particularly when storage practitioners are dealing with large amounts of unstructured data distributed across multiple data stores within core datacenters, edge, and in the cloud.

Nutanix Unified Storage serves this need with flexible scalability and improved performance for customers to tackle unpredictable data growth. With NUS, customers can start as small as one node and grow to multi-PB without compromising performance. It is also possible to scale down to the edge or extend to cloud spanning multi-cluster and multi-site environments.

The ability to scale vertically or horizontally is what stood out to a university’s Manager of Server and Storage Infrastructure. He elaborated, saying, “For a large departmental share, we can size it, scale it out, and have a large number of servers so that you can have thousands of users on it. If we’re doing an export or a share that’s going to run on an analysis server and more speed is needed, we can scale vertically and add more CPUs to add more memory to the file server. This is something we couldn’t do with our previous system.”

Gupta Kg remarked, “It is easy to scale the environment.” We can scale based on the performance requirements of our workloads. So, if we have a new workload coming in and need more storage, we can easily scale it. There will be no disruption or performance loss when scaling out or scaling up.”

“Nutanix Files Storage is easy to scale out,” said Vishnu Mohan, a Service Delivery Manager Cloud at a healthcare company with over 10,000 employees. “My company had grown, so it expanded the cluster; scalability-wise, the solution is a nine out of ten.”

Given the role of unstructured data in creating pressure to scale storage, it makes sense that users like Eashwar Koteewariah, an IT Manager, would acknowledge Nutanix Unified Storage for this ability. He found the solution’s capacity to store unstructured data to be “impressive.” In their case, they are storing security video data files from multiple sites. He said, “We can efficiently manage all the instructional data from a single interface. Gupta Kg likewise commented that, with Nutanix Unified Storage, “managing our unstructured data is much easier.”

Unstructured data and scalability go together. This is partly because unstructured data can come in unexpectedly large volumes—and storage solutions need to be able to accommodate them. Nutanix Unified Storage users expressed confidence that their solutions can scale to meet the demands of unstructured data workloads and more.



Gupta K.

Cloud Operations at a
consumer goods company
with 10,001+ employees



“We can scale based on the performance requirements of our workloads. So, if we have a new workload coming in and need more storage, we can easily scale it.”

[Read review »](#)



Chief Technology Officer
at PBG Networks

“Besides the general performance and security improvements, it also adds analytics audit trails and, most importantly, ransomware protection.”

[Read review »](#)

#3 – Security

Concerns about cyber risk, especially those posed by ransomware attacks, make security of paramount importance for storage practitioners. Nutanix answers this need with Data Lens, a SaaS-based integrated data security solution offering ransomware resilience and intelligent analytics for unstructured data on Nutanix Cloud Platform (NCP).

Nutanix Data Lens offers tools to detect, block, and recover from ransomware and cyberattacks. Nutanix Data Lens can detect and block threats in just minutes using known ransomware signature-based threat detection, as well as behavioral pattern-based threat detection. Once a threat is detected, it is immediately blocked, triggering the option to perform 1-Click Recovery to restore business back to normal using the last good NUS snapshot.

Not only can Data Lens protect unstructured data from ransomware attacks, it can also protect the data from insider threats. With high visibility into user behavior and data access, storage admins can monitor and identify the root cause of internal vulnerabilities using permissions monitoring and risk visualization tools.

This Nutanix blog [Beyond Ransom & Recovery: Defend Your Data Proactively with Nutanix Data Lens](#) provides further details and context. It explains how Data Lens enables users to focus on protecting data against malicious attacks, ransomware, and other threats while building inherent cyber resilience.

Nutanix Unified Storage users spoke about security in their reviews, highlighting the value of the solution. For example, Gupta Kg said, “There is a software called Nutanix Data Lens that provides insight into our infrastructure data. With it, we can keep track of anything we detect, allowing us to monitor and prevent suspicious activity and attacks. Nutanix Data Lens offers a feature that can monitor suspicious activity.” It is crucial for organizations to stay ahead of bad actors to keep their data safe, and protect their organizational reputations.

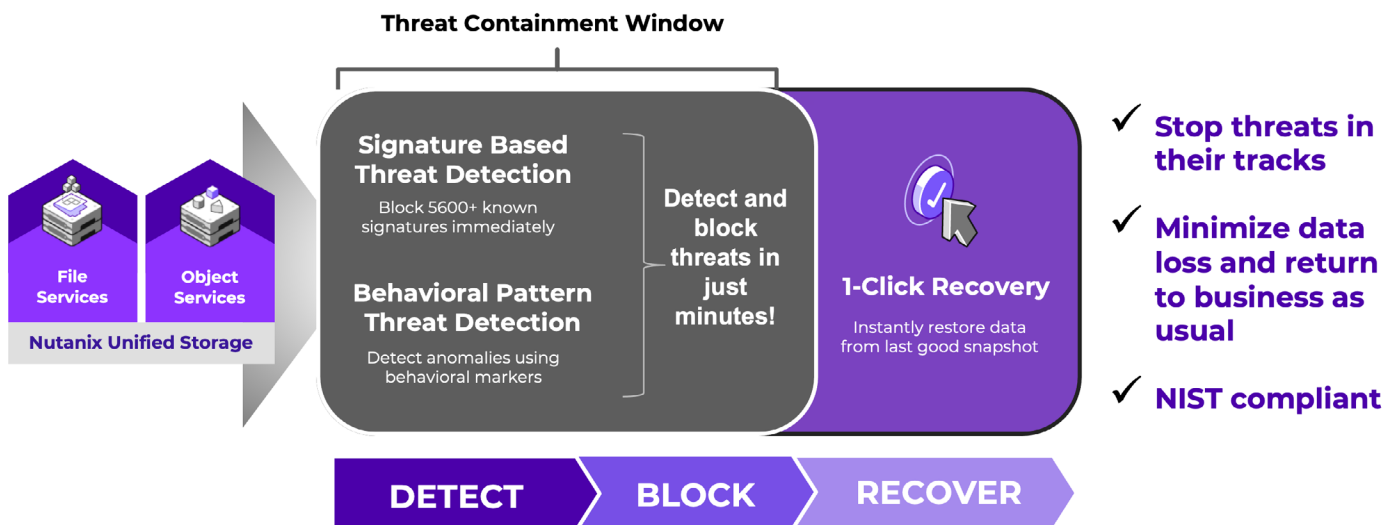


Figure 2 – Integrated ransomware resilience for NUS—enabling storage practitioners to detect and block ransomware attack, but also recover quickly with 1-Click Recovery.



Amit G.
IT Operations at a
engineering company with
5,001-10,000 employees



“The encryption is perfect. The data is fully encrypted with an advanced set of encryption keys and policies.”

[Read review »](#)

Encryption is an essential element of data security that Nutanix Unified Storage delivers. As Amit Gumber put it: “The encryption is perfect. The data is fully encrypted with an advanced set of encryption keys and policies. We are very satisfied with the encryption and data protection provided by the solution.”

A local government IT Support Supervisor was also impressed with the encryption capabilities of Nutanix Unified Storage. He characterized the solution’s software-based encryption as “very easy to set up.” Additionally, he found the key management to be simple to work with.

When it comes to defending against ransomware attacks, Nutanix Unified Storage stood out once again. The Chief Technology Officer of PBG Networks, a small tech services company, mentioned, “Besides the general performance and security improvements, it also adds analytics audit trails and, most importantly, ransomware protection... It gives you great visibility and protection on your file shares that are otherwise the most common sources of vulnerabilities.” Figure 2 shows how NUS provides resilience against ransomware attacks.

Storage practitioners are on the front lines of data security, whether they want to be or not. They need solutions that embody countermeasures like encryption and ransomware protection. NUS meets these criteria, as PeerSpot members shared in their reviews.

#4 – Global Access Management

Modern enterprise data storage is distributed across multiple, global locations at the edge, cloud, or core datacenters. For this reason, the ability to manage storage remotely with the same management tools as those used on-premises is considered a plus. Combined with Nutanix Cloud Platform (NCP), NUS gives users a platform that is built for agility, flexibility, and simplicity to build modern applications and services whether they are deployed on the core, in the cloud, or at the edge. NUS can be managed by generalists with design concepts consistent with the Nutanix Cloud Platform including unified management, 1-click upgrades, seamless expansion, consumer-grade management, and extension into the public cloud with an identical operating model.

Randy Rose, a Director of Operations at a small software company, commented on this capability, saying, “Because Nutanix is web-based, I can be in Illinois and check on the data center in Michigan. If we have a problem that one of my engineers can’t solve, then they can call me, and I can take a look at it. The remote availability features are great.” Gupta Kg concurred, saying, “Nutanix Unified Storage allows our organization to manage and run its storage from one location using a single platform.”



Remote Management Capabilities



Easy to Scale

People, data, and IT infrastructure are almost never in the same place in today's corporate world. For this reason, a software-defined storage with modern data services platforms solution needs to enable global access management. As users attested, NUS delivers on the capability making it an ideal storage solution for a globally distributed workforce.

#5 - Flexibility

Hard-to-change multi-vendor storage environments constrain agility. IT and storage practitioners thus appreciate a flexible storage solution such as Nutanix Unified Storage, which offers a single flexible, consumption-based license across all three storage types: files, objects, and volumes. Customers can deploy NUS in dedicated or hyper-converged modes. The solution also offers non-disruptive updates for continuously available (CA) shares, making disruptive updates to the infrastructure a thing of the past.

A Security and Infrastructure Practice manager at a small software company explained this need by saying, "The ability to easily add another node as your business grows is a major advantage. Nutanix Objects Storage allows for flexibility in the type of nodes added, whether it be for more object storage or increased compute power for databases." For his team, Nutanix's "mix-and-match capability" makes the solution highly scalable.

“Nutanix Unified Storage is flexible,” said Gupta Kg. “We can add storage as we need it because we can add it on the fly. Once we see that our capacity is reaching a threshold, we can easily add a new brick or additional storage to our platform. It’s really easy, with no downtime or any other requirements. We can expand it very quickly.”

Licensing is part of the flexibility picture. According to a local government IT Support Supervisor, Nutanix Unified Storage fits his team’s needs because “it is easily expandable.” He added, “As long as you have existing storage in your environment, you can license as much of that as you need for the files. The nice thing about it is that you can split up your licenses between multiple clusters. That is what we did with our production in the DR [disaster recovery] site.”

NUS helps storage practitioners to keep up with dynamic IT workloads through flexibility and expandability. With NUS, admins can add storage nodes on the fly whether it is deployed in dedicated or hyper-converged modes. NUS provides the adaptability storage practitioners need to make storage an enabler towards a fully digitally transformed IT operations.



Near Zero RPO

#6 – Resiliency

Software-defined storage offers modern data protection methodologies such as snapshots and self-service restore, allowing for quick restore access and site recovery in case of a disaster. With NUS, customers reduce the cost of storage downtime with synchronous replication that offers a near zero recovery point objective (RPO). Metro Availability offers enhanced protection against issues such as site failures, cluster failures, or data unavailability—offering a highly available (HA) solution for mission-critical apps. In addition, Smart Sync simplifies the sync of edge data into the core without management complexity and additional third-party tools. It provides a global view of files, blocks, objects, VMs, and containers across edge, core, and cloud with full data security, integrity, and availability.

Nutanix users reflected on this capability in their reviews, with a local government IT Support Supervisor, for example, saying that Nutanix’s “resiliency is good in terms of the protection domains and the ability to replicate to another cluster that took care of our BCDR [business continuity and disaster recovery] needs.”



Justin J.

Network Administrator at
a healthcare company with
501-1,000 employees



**“The resiliency of
Nutanix Unified
Storage is impressive,
with excellent
uptime.”**

[Read review »](#)

He elaborated, saying, “Also, because it is built on the Nutanix Cloud Infrastructure (NCI) platform, it is as resilient as Nutanix is, so a single drive failure or something like that is not going to affect the storage array. With the way files are implemented as VMs, if a host goes down and you have a cluster of three VMs, you know that you will always have one that is up and available. As long as you are not riding right on the edge of your storage resiliency limit, you can lose a node without batting an eye.”

Other notable comments about resiliency included:

- “The resiliency of Nutanix Unified Storage is impressive, with excellent uptime. We faced numerous issues with our previous three-tier architecture.” – Justin Johnson
- “In terms of resiliency, with high availability and redundancy, Unified Storage works on a cluster model. With the help of this solution, everything has gone well.” – Amit Gumber
- “Nutanix Unified Storage has significantly improved our organization’s disaster recovery capabilities.” - Gupta Kg
- “Nutanix Unified Storage demonstrates resilience. The solution has the capability to duplicate data across multiple node storages, ensuring that if one node fails, the data remains accessible.” - Eashwar Koteewariah

Downtime is toxic to IT and business operations. Storage needs to do its part to enable a rapid return to normal functioning in the event of an outage. As PeerSpot members revealed in their reviews of NUS, the solution realizes this objective, with robust resiliency and disaster recovery capabilities.



Quality Support

#7 – Quality of Support

PeerSpot members acknowledged the value of vendor support in getting to success with software-defined storage with modern data services platforms. To this point, Ryan Uy, a Solutions Architect at Strategic Synergy Inc., a small tech services company, remarked, “The solution’s tech support is very good.” The customer service executives of all Nutanix products are active and responsive. It is easy to open a case.”

Other users had similar takes, with a Senior Systems Administrator at an energy/utilities company with more than 500 employees saying that Nutanix offered “the best technical support.” Specifically, he was pleased that his team could reach Nutanix engineers immediately and get full support. He said, “I get responses immediately to tickets, unlike with other services where it can take forever. Therefore, I would rate the technical support a ten out of ten.” A university’s Manager of Server and Storage Infrastructure simply stated, “Nutanix’s technical support is excellent.” Overall, customer scores for NUS storage confirms an NPS score of 92, highest for the industry.

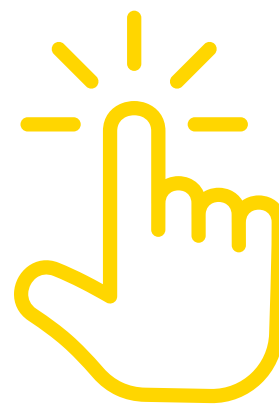
These reviews highlight the importance of support for software-defined storage with modern data services platforms. Strong support is the foundation of other key success factors, such as scalability, flexibility, resiliency, security, and so forth.

#8 – Ease of Use, Management, and Setup

A software-defined data services platform offering unified storage for modern apps must not be difficult to use. A modern software-defined data services platform such as Nutanix Unified Storage addresses this issue by providing a single point of management with intelligent operations and automation. Its self-service model enables a consistent cloud operating model that eliminates the complexity and cost of different architectures—while the server scale-out design taps into server economics and can be managed by storage generalists. Storage administrators can easily manage storage with one-click operation and automation from reduced data fragmentation and sprawl by consolidating file, object, and volume storage.

Users praised Nutanix Unified Storage in this context. Randy Rose declared that Nutanix Unified Storage was “easy to use,” with new employees able to “come up to speed fairly quickly with regard to the day-to-day administration processes.”

For a Sales & Marketing Manager at a small software company, Nutanix Unified Storage’s most valuable feature was its “easy interface.” A Technical Director at an educational organization with over 1,000 employees found the solution “very easy to manage.”



Easy-to-Use

Ease of setup also mattered to users, with Makhoul Mimouni, a Virtualization Systems Engineer at Sonatrach, a small tech company sharing, “It was easy for me to set up Nutanix Files Storage. I didn’t experience any difficulty with the initial setup, so setup-wise, it’s a nine out of ten.” The software company’s Security and Infrastructure Practice Manager concurred, saying, “The initial setup was extremely straightforward. The process involved simply activating the license and enabling the feature, and it took mere minutes to complete. Hence, it was a hassle-free deployment and easy to manage.”

From setup to ongoing operations, NUS is proving itself to be easy to use. Users affirmed that NUS makes their life easier and helps keep storage teams productive. Storage management teams can focus their time on strategic data management instead of the day-to-day operations.

#9 – Non-Disruptive Upgrades

Storage solutions—and requirements—never stand still. There’s an unceasing process of updating solutions as they make their way through their product lifecycles. To support a successful experience with a software-defined data services platform, a solution should therefore be non-disruptive with its upgrades and related lifecycle management capabilities.



Gupta K.

Cloud Operations at a
consumer goods company
with 10,001+ employees



“Maintenance is simplified due to the use of clusters, which allows for easy transfer of workloads between clusters during upgrades or updates.”

[Read review »](#)

Nutanix Unified Storage meets this criterion. With native migration tools, NUS offers a native solution for faster storage setup and data migration, allowing customers to realize ROI more quickly. Native migration of data from both NFS and SMB shares reduces the time to onboard file storage, achieving faster payback and ROI. In addition, customers can use the API to develop automation scripts for data migration. As Gupta Kg explained, “Maintenance is simplified due to the use of clusters, which allows for easy transfer of workloads between clusters during upgrades or updates. The process is non-disruptive and allows for seamless transitions. Maintenance is only needed on a few occasions, as most upgrades are non-disruptive.”

“No disruptions have occurred, and the upgrades are carried out smoothly,” said a software company’s Security and Infrastructure Practice Manager. He added, “The process is automated, allowing us to initiate the upgrade and let it proceed on its own, one note at a time.”

Ghion Endalew, a Section Manager for Platform Team at Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, an energy/ utilities company with over 1,000 employees, noted, “The life cycle managers of the PCMs are very impressive, and I like them. They make our lives easy when managing patches and security updates when they come in. A life cycle manager helps to consolidate different vendors.”

Upgrades are part of the storage practitioner's portfolio. They should go as smoothly as possible—avoiding delays and complications whenever possible. NUS makes migrations easy, as PeerSpot members shared in their reviews.

#10 – Data Analytics

The requirement for storage practitioners to know who is accessing enterprise data, how they are using it, and when they are accessing it is key to protecting the data. Data analytics is quickly becoming table stakes for a modern data services platform. Not only can Nutanix Data Lens protect unstructured data from ransomware attacks, it can also protect the data from insider threats. With high visibility into user behavior and data access, storage admins can monitor and identify the root cause of internal vulnerabilities using permissions monitoring and risk visualization tools. According to the software company's Senior Systems Engineer, Nutanix Data Lens “allows us to track who's doing what.”

Furthermore, data analytics tools, which are embedded within Nutanix Data Lens, allow admins to identify opportunities to optimize data storage through Smart Tiering. “One of the things that really sold us on Nutanix Unified Storage was File Analytics and Data Lens,” said a university’s Manager of Server and Storage Infrastructure. “We could always tell how much storage we were using, how many files we had, and even the age of the files, but we could never get a good handle on who was doing what with them.”

He went on to describe how this lack of visibility “has been a huge issue.” For example, if a user moved a folder, the admins would not be able to tell who did it. He said, “We did not have a good way of auditing what was going on with the systems. This could become an issue in a ransomware attack. It would make it more difficult to figure out when we got infected and where we need to roll back to in order to recover. Nutanix Data Lens gives us that information. In addition, Data Lens has a mechanism built in to prevent a ransomware attack from getting a foothold on the system. It can shut it down before it does a lot of damage.” Nutanix Data Lens allows organizations to get to the root of insider risk using intelligent insights into their unstructured data to set protection policies and monitor risk via quantitative scoring.



Faisal S.
Systems Administration Manager
at Elsewedy Technology



“I rate Nutanix Unified Storage 10 out of 10. The file server analytics are great.”

[Read review »](#)

Before implementing Nutanix, Elsewedy Technology, a manufacturing company with more than 5,000 employees, used a traditional file server storage solution. Their Systems Administration Manager, Faisal Shaheen, shared, “We adopted Nutanix because we have more than a million files and we didn’t have any insights or analytics. We didn’t know who deleted or moved files. We couldn’t see who had permission to access a file. Nutanix is integrated with our Active Directory.... I rate Nutanix Unified Storage 10 out of 10. The file server analytics are great.”

Storage management requires a knowledge of what’s happening in the storage environment. This is particular true for software-defined storage with modern data services platforms, which spans multiple types of storage and is subject to dynamic scaling and unpredictable usage patterns. NUS provides advanced analytics to satisfy this need.

Conclusion

Exponential growth of unstructured data consumed by modern applications is making it imperative to break down storage siloes and consolidate block, object, and file storage. Legacy storage solutions are not up to the job. A software-defined data services platform, as exemplified by Nutanix Unified Storage, offers a solution.

While the goal is clear, the path to success involves a combination of factors. This paper lays out the top 10 criteria for storage practitioners to evaluate software-defined data services platforms. The criteria include scalability, security, flexibility, ease of use, and resiliency. Deploying and managing storage for a hybrid multi-cloud environment requires taking a new look at how data services are deployed.

A software-defined storage like Nutanix Unified Storage helps organizations with simplified and flexible data management strategies and overall makes enterprise storage highly available for mission-critical applications. According to PeerSpot members, remote management and ease of use also drive success with software-defined data services platform, as does quality of support and lifecycle management and data analytics helping with visibility. Hence, the top 10 factors gives a framework for storage practitioners as they try to evaluate and get the most out of software-defined data services platforms.

About PeerSpot

PeerSpot is the authority on enterprise technology buying intelligence. As the world's fastest growing review platform designed exclusively for enterprise technology, with over 3.5 million enterprise technology visitors, PeerSpot enables 97 of the Fortune 100 companies in making technology buying decisions. Technology vendors understand the importance of peer reviews and encourage their customers to be part of our community. PeerSpot helps vendors capture and leverage the authentic product feedback in the most comprehensive way, to help buyers when conducting research or making purchase decisions, as well as helping vendors use their voice of customer insights in other educational ways throughout their business.

www.peerspot.com

PeerSpot does not endorse or recommend any products or services. The views and opinions of reviewers quoted in this document, PeerSpot websites, and PeerSpot materials do not reflect the opinions of PeerSpot.

About Nutanix

Nutanix is a global leader in cloud software, offering organizations a single platform for running apps and data across clouds. With Nutanix, companies can reduce complexity and simplify operations, freeing them to focus on their business outcomes. Building on its legacy as the pioneer of hyperconverged infrastructure, Nutanix is trusted by companies worldwide to power hybrid multicloud environments consistently, simply, and cost-effectively. Learn more at www.nutanix.com or follow us on social media @nutanix.