AWS Outposts

Building an effective data protection strategy for a hybrid cloud experience with Veritas NetBackup.

Overview

Cloud computing has evolved since its initial introduction in the mid-2000s to become an integral component of the enterprise IT landscape. Spending on public cloud infrastructure services has now reached a tipping point where it will exceed traditional on-premises infrastructure spend over the next few years. The emergence of the on-prem platform as a service (PaaS) consumption model offers organizations with a unique value proposition the ability to drive cost and complexity out of the business model while increasing operational efficiency. This paradigm shift combines the benefits of running native cloud services on-prem while delivering the performance for mission-critical application workloads that require low-latency, localized processing and on-prem data storage. A digital transformation is not complete without understanding the opportunity to provide a data protection and security model for the most important asset in any business—the data. This business outcome delivers the ultimate hybrid cloud experience.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) redefined the cloud market when it launched AWS Outposts. This new, fully managed PaaS model delivers on-premises hardware and services that enable AWS cloud services to run inside enterprise data centers. Businesses around the world can now enable native cloud services and expedite deployment much more quickly. The localization of AWS defines a new set of expectations for deployments, and although data sovereignty can be preserved, it still requires a thoughtful approach to implementing a data protection strategy to safeguard your digital assets.

Veritas has always made data protection its highest priority. From physical to virtual, container and cloud, Veritas has kept pace with the industry to provide performant solutions to protect data regardless of where it resides. Veritas worked closely with the AWS Outposts team, becoming one of the first AWS Partner Network (APN) members to successfully test and validate NetBackup™, our enterprise data protection solution for AWS Outposts.

What is AWS Outposts?

AWS Outposts is the only way to run AWS APIs, infrastructure, services and tools in your local data center. Once installed, AWS Outposts are set up and connected to the nearest AWS region and bring the once remote-driven experience much closer to home. Companies no longer have to choose between storing sensitive data on-premises or missing out on the convenience of the cloud. AWS Outposts brings the majority of its cloud-native features within the infrastructure, including EC2, Amazon EBS, container-based services and database services as well as analytics. The enterprise now has a best-of-both-worlds approach with a locally run, remotely managed, hardware infrastructure that offers no compromise.

Why Protect Cloud Data?

With the plethora of features AWS Outposts provides, users would be remiss to think they had it all. Veritas ran a study of more than 1,500 cloud architects in 2019 and of the individuals interviewed, over 84 percent believed their cloud data was automatically protected. Unfortunately, this is not the case. AWS Outposts and the cloud-native AWS offerings are a fantastic way to host and grow an organization's data footprint; however, ensuring that data is recoverable is the responsibility of the user, not the provider.

Unfortunately, ransomware, data corruption and human error are all still threats to information residing in any environment. Protection remains an absolute need for every infrastructure in which data resides. Veritas offers numerous ways to help optimize and protect data in both AWS Outposts and AWS proper, keeping the local/remote protection gap bridged throughout the entirety of users' AWS experience.

How to Keep Data Recoverable

The difficulty in ensuring total protection for AWS data lies in making sure all services are covered from an automated backup. NetBackup offers the ability to protect EBS infrastructure as well as the individual files within it efficiently and automatically. These backups are consolidated within the NetBackup catalogue and become recoverable to the AWS Outposts infrastructure, AWS and other locations.

In the last few years, Veritas engineering has worked tirelessly to level up the user experience, and with NetBackup 8.3, admins have a choice about how to protect their data. Whether they choose to use the traditional NetBackup user interface, our latest modern web GUI or automate everything through a robust API library, the ability to administrate protection is in their hands. Through these various interfaces, NetBackup admins can set up robust automated backup policies that can quickly protect AWS Outposts data and migrate it to the desired storage location for long-term retention.

When setting up a backup policy to protect sensitive business data within AWS Outposts, admins also have the ability to use the latest NetBackup 8.3 feature: Media Server Deduplication Pool (MSDP) Cloud. MSDP Cloud allows AWS backup data to be collated and compressed in a localized pool that can result in up to a 90 percent overall storage reduction for backup files. Admins can store this pool on a local NetBackup Appliance or in an S3 bucket, giving them ultimate compression and control over where their backup data resides. (See Figure 1.)
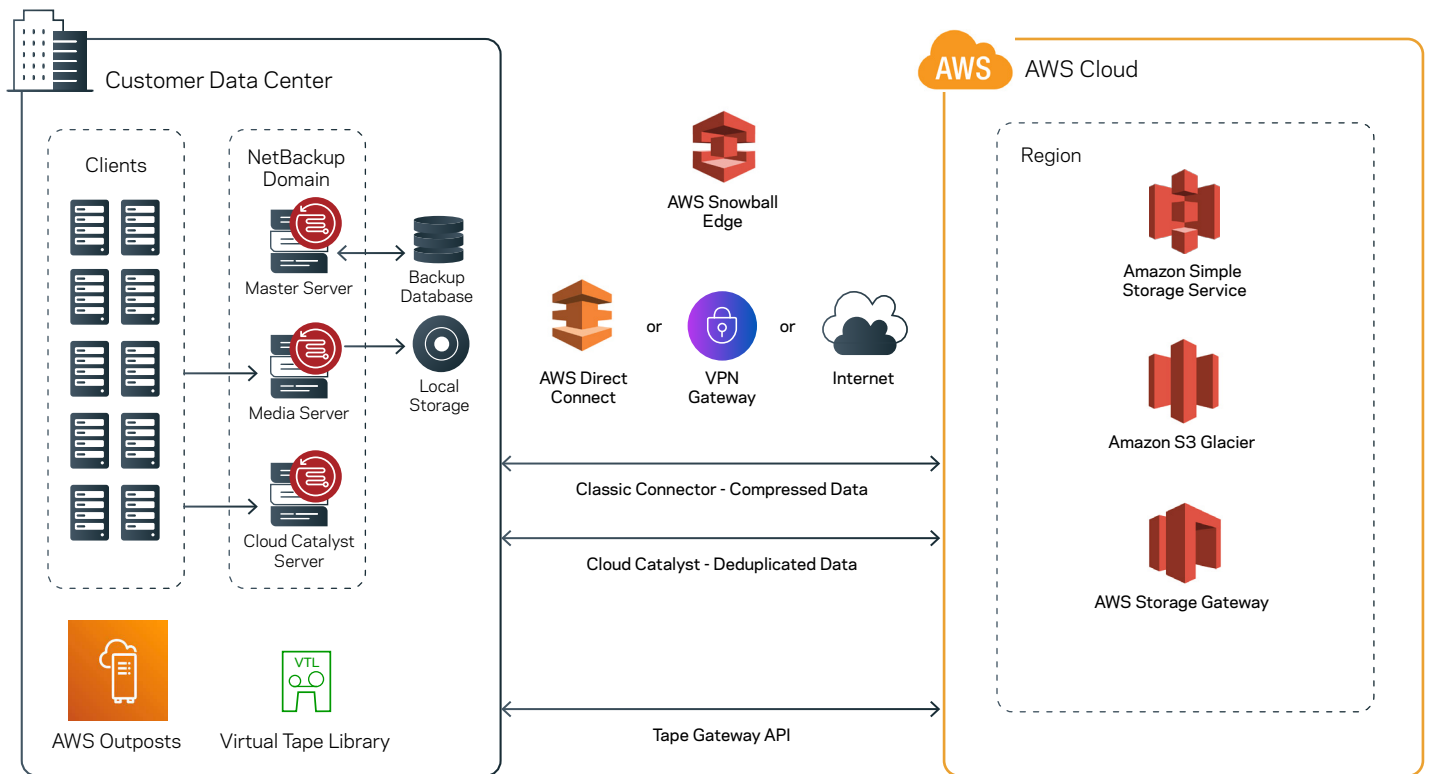

Figure 1. An overview of backup data recovery options using NetBackup with MSDP Cloud.

Deploying NetBackup has never been easier than it is today from the AWS Marketplace. AWS administrators can start protecting their data faster than ever with our customized CloudFormation Template (CFT) deployment process that quickly sets up the entire NetBackup infrastructure within an AWS environment—both AWS Outposts and hosted—within minutes. Existing NetBackup Master Servers can connect to the newly deployed AWS-hosted NetBackup instances and begin sharing catalogued data and policies, creating a web of protection that encompasses the entire business infrastructure.

Better Together

AWS Outposts has radically changed the options a business has when it comes to interacting with the cloud. Veritas is excited to partner with Amazon and deliver an all-encompassing, robust way for organizations to protect their AWS Outposts data without compromise.

To learn more, please visit
https://vox.veritas.com/t5/Partners/The-Enterprise-Cloud-Journey-Chapter-1-Platform-as-a-Service/ba-p/882690#M630.

About Veritas

Veritas Technologies is a global leader in data protection and availability. Over 80,000 customers—including 87 percent of the Fortune Global 500—rely on us to abstract IT complexity and simplify data management. The Veritas Enterprise Data Services Platform automates the protection and orchestrates the recovery of data everywhere it lives, ensures 24/7 availability of business-critical applications, and provides enterprises with the insights they need to comply with evolving data regulations. With a reputation for reliability at scale and a deployment model to fit any need, Veritas Enterprise Data Services Platform supports more than 800 different data sources, over 100 different operating systems, more than 1,400 storage targets, and more than 60 different cloud platforms. Learn more at www.veritas.com. Follow us on Twitter at @veritastechllc.

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