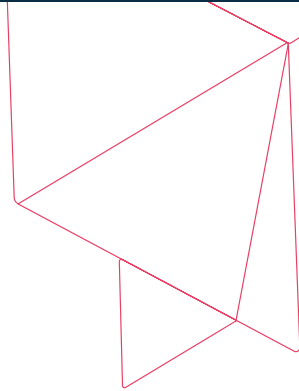


Data readiness. The next big challenge.

Do you have the flexible, scalable environment you need?

We live in a data-saturated world. The sheer volume of data we must manage – along with its formats, storage options, and sources – can be overwhelming. To tame the deluge, companies need flexible, scalable data management solutions that ensure real-time data accessibility. Cloud data solutions improve accessibility, yet organizations also look for data solutions that simplify operations, reduce risk, and increase productivity¹. That’s a tall order. Filling it requires a unified, holistic data management approach that makes it easy to move, manage, recover, and understand your data, for the best possible business results.



At Commvault, we work with you to achieve three goals – managing data responsibly across multiple clouds, ensuring the proper level of recovery readiness, and optimizing a modern data infrastructure – that together maximize the benefits of today’s, and tomorrow’s, cloud and data environments (Figure 1).

Cloud responsibly: Make conscious choices

A cloud environment delivers a uniquely agile and cost-effective infrastructure for storage and computation. To realize its full benefits, however, you must “cloud responsibly.” Clarify your objectives; make conscious choices about data portability and protection, both before and after data migration; then prepare and stage your data to meet your goals.



Figure 1: Goals of Holistic Data Management

When you manage cloud data responsibly, you make smart, thoughtful choices that reduce the complexity of global data management while increasing overall data visibility, consistency, access, ease of migration, and security. That, in turn, improves analysis and supports better business insights.

To get the most business value from the cloud, we suggest a pre-migration discovery phase. Assess what you have, index it, clean it up, then decide where it should live and why. Who knows? You might unearth silos of departmental or regional data that can be prioritized and staged for migration – or dismissed altogether.

A little discovery work can have a big payoff. For example, a large university initially pegged a cloud migration project as a three-month effort due to the large amount of data targeted. Once the school worked with Commvault to clarify needs and identify and prepare the data, it was possible to complete migration and staging in just 13 days.

Ensure recovery readiness: It’s about both breadth and depth

Disaster plans are like life insurance – you hope you never have to use them. But because your business would come to a standstill without data access, you need a comprehensive data recovery plan. And, like the decision to use a cloud environment, your choice of disaster plan has more facets than you might realize.

Any plan you develop must work broadly and deeply enough to reach valuable data wherever it resides. Your plan should extend beyond central servers and organization-wide applications to cover laptop hard drives, files in a wide range of media formats, and function-specific applications such as those used by supply chain management and product development teams.

True peace of mind comes from having a comprehensive, continually ready recovery plan. The last thing you want to do when contending with a natural disaster, data breach, or ransomware attack is stop to figure out which data needs to be recovered in what order. “Recovery readiness” means that recovery stages are documented, automated, and predictable. A good recovery readiness solution:

- Supports prioritization, with mission-critical data restored first
- Minimizes disruption and reduces or eliminates team downtime
- Allows recovery from multiple data tiers – files, applications, endpoints, and more
- Embeds flexible, easy-to-use, automated tools that both protect and seamlessly restore data

Modernize your infrastructure: Think essential, not maximal

The cloud was supposed to simplify data management. Yet cloud storage often augments on-premises storage instead of fully replacing it, for a variety of privacy, governance, data sovereignty or performance reasons. This combination further exacerbates the complexity many companies face.

When addressing data growth on premises, how can you avoid the “scale up” trap? The answer is to buy what you need, no less and no more. Sounds simple enough – but have you ever walked into a store with a three-item list, only to exit with a cartful of stuff you “might need someday?” Don’t be that person. Work with your business partners to match infrastructure and IT staffing to specific, shared business needs and goals.

But what if your business strategy changes? After all, new opportunities arise every day. Then your data management strategy – and maybe your infrastructure – should change too. Recognize, however, that data management and protection solutions should serve broader business goals, not just address a data storage problem. Specifically, these solutions should have three qualities:

- 1 Predictability. Clear expectations for performance, scale, and costs help you make informed choices that drive change, rather than reacting to what’s on offer.
- 2 Powerful simplicity. A flexible infrastructure that’s easy to implement, manage, and support can save time and money, allowing you to take on projects with a positive impact on your business.
- 3 A single, unified platform. One data protection platform can reduce the time it takes to move, manage, and recover your data – especially critical during data recovery.

Using these criteria in conjunction with your business strategy will help you adopt “scale out” thinking when modernizing your data management platform.

Being ready for what’s next

Many organizations make “getting to the cloud” their primary objective, but true readiness depends upon a holistic approach to data management across the entire environment – one that starts with a clear strategy and business case, embeds a comprehensive data recovery plan, and views infrastructure modernization as an ongoing process. You may not be able to predict the volume or format of data that will be generated in the next decade, but you can maintain high levels of flexibility and scalability that allow you to use whatever data needed to seize opportunities. That’s the meaning of data readiness: being able to improve your operations and meet your business goals regardless of how the world changes.

To learn more, visit commvault.com/complete-backup >