

American College of Radiology

Panzura Helps American College of Radiology solves data storage challenges and meets HIPAA requirements

The American College of Radiology (ACR) is a nonprofit professional medical society dedicated to serving patients and society by empowering radiology professionals to advance the practice, science and profession of radiological care.

ACR has to manage vast storehouses of digital radiology files where all data needs to be stored, managed and protected against system crashes and security breaches. ACR's image file sizes were exploding, leading storage requirements to grow from 100 to 250 TB in the next three years alone. To compound matters, ACR needs to comply with HIPAA regulations. The traditional storage model of backing up and replicating data multiple times was reaching a breaking point.

Matt Jordan, senior director of IT operations at ACR, had to solve the organization's data storage challenges. "From a storage perspective, if I want to store and protect 100 terabytes worth of data, I could end up paying for almost five times the amount of storage, plus the backup licenses," Jordan said. "That's not a sustainable growth model. On top of that, we have to make sure we're secure from a HIPAA perspective. We clearly needed a new plan."

ACR was using traditional EMC VNX storage at each site, replicating between them and using Commvault for local backups. The organization needed to find a storage solution that would provide solid performance for end users, support data growth, and meet HIPAA security requirements – all at an effective price. Datatility, a managed services provider that performed backup services for ACR, recommended Panzura's Distributed Cloud File System and Datatility's "Hydra" object-based storage cloud, powered by Cleversafe.

Situation Snapshot:

- Medical association needed to share imaging files and collaborate across three East Coast offices.
- Key applications: Medical imaging access, archiving and retention
- Key challenge: The association needed to manage data growth, backup and data retention with a HIPAA-compliant secure cloud storage solution.

Providing a connection to the cloud

ACR looked at a variety of storage options and eventually settled on Datatility's "Hydra" Cloud, powered by Cleversafe's web-scale storage solution. The Cleversafe-based private cloud storage solution appealed to Jordan since it met his security requirements, could easily scale and handled replication through its data dispersion algorithm – but there was one piece missing. ACR needed a way to connect their files into the Cleversafe-powered Hydra object storage platform that would satisfy the performance requirements needed by ACR users.

Panzura met ACR's needs for performance, flexibility, security, and usability. "We looked at other solutions, but they did not meet our needs from a cost or flexibility perspective," Jordan explained. "Panzura, Datatility and Cleversafe gives us the flexibility to grow over time and absolutely nails the performance at the predictable pricing we need."

"Panzura solves two other problems for us," Jordan said. "One is that if I delete a file, I can easily restore from a snapshot, solving my backup requirements I don't need to back the system up because it's backing itself up archiving the data and the snapshots to Datatility's Hydra Cloud, where it's secure, protected and dispersed across datacenters. I also have the ability for our applications to leverage Cleversafe without the need to modify the applications."



Cutting backup storage needs

Going with the Panzura, Datatility and Cleversafe solution cut costs significantly. Jordan estimated that with traditional storage, ACR needed about 500 TB of raw storage to store, protect, backup and archive 100 TB of image and file data. That dropped by 70%. "With Panzura and Cleversafe, I'm not paying 5 times for storage." But, he said, the cost savings will be even bigger because he doesn't have to worry about over-buying or under-buying storage or additional software licenses. "It gives us a sustainable growth model now."

"Panzura accomplished 100 percent of what we wanted to do in terms of security and performance on day one at a reasonable price point," Jordan added. "That offers us an incredible amount of flexibility in the projection of our business costs. Panzura, Datatility and Cleversafe give us the flexibility to modify the implementation as they mature going forward without a major architectural change."

With Panzura, Datatility and Cleversafe, the American College of Radiology was able to:

- Consolidate legacy storage, backup and replication from multiple sites into the cloud.
- Give users fast, secure access to data from multiple sites.
- Meet HIPAA security requirements with FIPS 140-2 certified security on-premise and in the cloud.
- Reduce overall costs while providing a sustainable growth model.

Meeting stringent HIPAA compliance regulations

ACR installed one Panzura device at the company's collocated data center and provisioned three other virtual instances. One is in ACR's Reston, Va., data center to provide disaster recovery capability for their co-location facility. The other two filers support the association's "high trust" segment to meet HIPAA regulations.

"HIPAA required us to do certain things from a security standpoint, and we were able to meet those with the Panzura solution," Jordan said. "We needed encryption at rest and encryption in transit. So, we have the capability of doing that from Panzura to Datatility through an encrypted channel. Both the cloud and the Panzura filers are fully encrypted."

Generating results: Phenomenal Performance

Jordan described the performance of the Panzura Distributed Cloud File System as "phenomenal."

"From a platform perspective, it gives us the best of both worlds where it looks like all of our data is local to the application," Jordan said. "So we get the local file access performance through the Panzura filer, which then replicates its data out to the Hydra cloud for disaster recovery and archiving."

The Panzura Distributed Cloud File System gives the association the ability to access data quickly and securely and cuts the time it takes to back up ACR's data. Fast, reliable snapshots were also critical, that give ACR the ability to quickly restore files from any point in time.

About the American College of Radiology

The American College of Radiology (ACR) is a nonprofit professional medical society dedicated to serving patients and society by empowering radiology professionals to advance the practice, science and profession of radiological care. Association membership is composed of diagnostic radiologists, radiation oncologists, interventional radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians, and medical physicians. It is based in Reston, Va., with offices in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

About Datatility

Datatility, headquartered in Ashburn, Virginia provides storage and backup solutions, networking services, and colocation out of data centers located in Northern Virginia, Chicago, London, and San Jose. Since 2003 Datatility has been providing innovative solutions to enterprises ranging from the largest retail company in the world to startups with cutting edge technology.

With Panzura, the cloud – public or private – not only serves as every tier of storage, it becomes the fabric that enables globally distributed teams rapid file access and easy collaboration. Panzura delivers one file system across hundreds of offices that allows users to work together as if they were in the same room. For more information, visit www.panzura.com.



Panzura, Inc. | 695 Campbell Technology Pkwy #225, Campbell, CA, USA | 855-PANZURA | www.panzura.com
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