File and Storage Tiering: NTP Software VFM and NetApp StorageGRID Webscale

The Challenge

Customers across a variety of industries are creating unstructured data at an ever-increasing rate. This data resides on primary storage designed for fast access and performance. Although primary storage is optimized for frequently accessed and actively used data, most data spends very little time in this access pattern. As a result, infrequently accessed or stale data quickly consumes this expensive resource.

As the footprint of storage increases, so does the complexity of backup and disaster recovery planning. Data growth can exceed 30 to 50% year over year, and customers are under pressure to find a solution that balances availability, durability, and cost efficiency. Many customers have decades' worth of critical but infrequently accessed data. Simply expanding primary storage is cost prohibitive. Asking users or IT to move data to lower-cost storage compounds complexity and leads to lost productivity as users struggle to find relocated data.

Customers need a seamless system that can be integrated into their current environment without interrupting end-user workflow. A transparent policy-driven solution that discovers and migrates stale data from expensive primary storage to durable and cost-effective archive storage is critical.

The Solution

NTP Software VFM enables customers to find unused files and move them to cost-effective and highly scalable NetApp StorageGRID Webscale object storage while maintaining seamless user access. VFM enables users to access archived data through its original location on primary storage with a stub file, dramatically reducing the data footprint on primary storage without disrupting the user workflow. Optionally, files can be accessed through the NTP recovery portal web interface.

As NTP Software VFM archives files to Webscale object storage, all file metadata is maintained. Rich metadata enables customers to take full advantage of Webscale's Integrated Lifecycle Management (ILM). Because ILM is applied at a granular level, customers can define availability, durability, and locality while balancing costs. Customers can choose to protect data across multiple data centers, geographies, and storage tiers, including disk, tape, and the public cloud.

Reducing the data footprint on primary storage saves money by reducing the need to expand or replace high-end storage arrays. In addition, the volume of data that must be protected with traditional backups is reduced.

KEY BENEFITS

- Discover and migrate infrequently accessed files to cost-effective and reliable NetApp® StorageGRID® Webscale object storage.

- Tier data to and from major primary storage platforms based on policy or user access.

- Save space on primary storage and reduce backup volumes.

- Maintain user access to archived files with stubs or a web portal.

- Simplify disaster recovery with active-active multisite architecture.

"The marriage between NTP Software VFM and Webscale brings together two best-of-breed technologies. Now an enterprise can implement a solution that essentially goes from the users' desktops to the infinite archive. For the first time, organizations have what they truly need. We can all stop worrying about files."

David Hilton
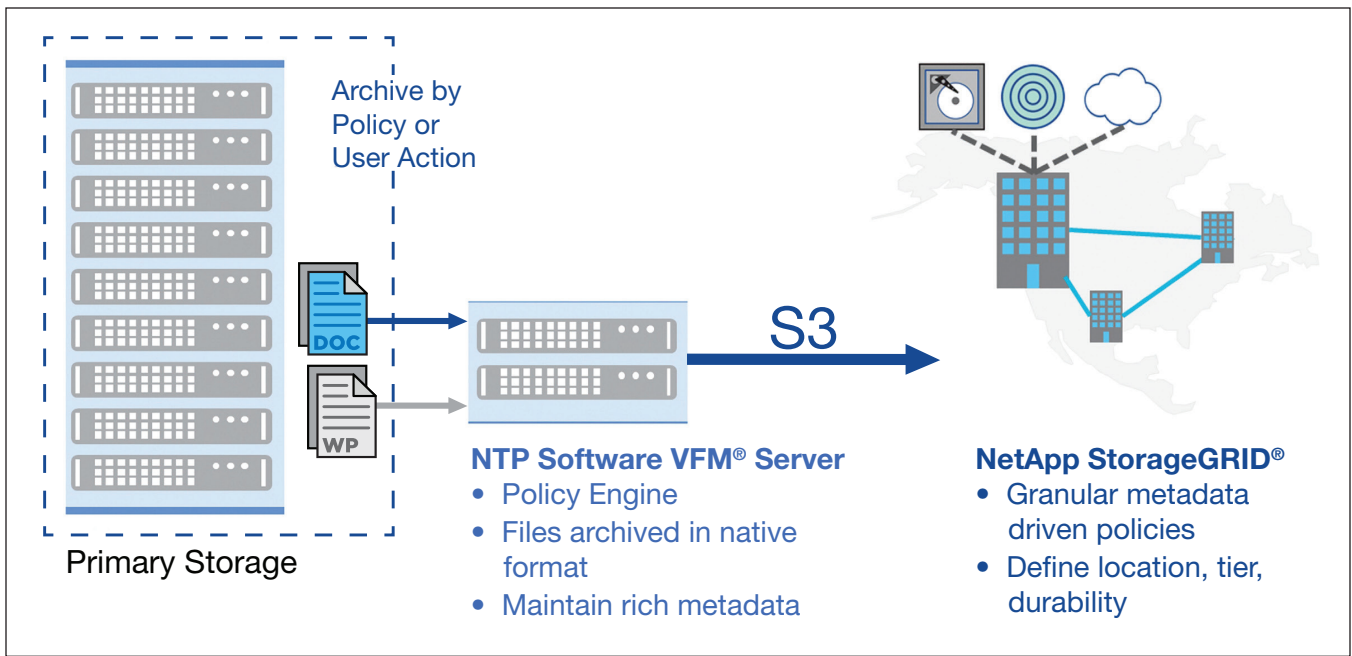CEO, Strategic Vision Business Development Corporation

FIGURE 1) FILES MOVE FROM PRIMARY STORAGE VIA A POLICY ENGINE AND ARE ARCHIVED IN THEIR NATIVE FORMAT.

The combination of NTP Software VFM with NetApp StorageGRID Webscale object storage creates a data management solution that enables customers to effectively manage data across primary and archive storage.

Understanding the file data in your environment unleashes the power of space savings and reduces backup volumes. VFM continues the mission of being the most powerful and flexible file data archiving and tiering solution on the market.

SOLUTION COMPONENT

NetApp Product
- StorageGRID Webscale object storage

NTP Software Product
- NTP Software VFM

ABOUT NTP Software
NTP Software is the worldwide leader in the control and management of unstructured data. Working with blue-chip companies such as NetApp and Microsoft, over 100,000 server licenses are issued and over 10 million end users are under management worldwide. In business, defense, public safety and education, NTP Software's applications give organizations from the Fortune 10 to regional school systems the ability to control, manage and preserve their file data.

ABOUT NETAPP
Leading organizations worldwide count on NetApp for software, systems and services to manage and store their data. Customers value our teamwork, expertise and passion for helping them succeed now and into the future. To learn more, visit www.netapp.com.