Pfizer Uses Analytics to Cut Storage Costs by 75%

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Leading pharmaceutical company Pfizer was sitting on petabytes of unstructured file data in their on-premises, high-performance storage. With no end in sight to their rapidly growing data demands, the company needed a plan for "right-placing" it. Komprise helped Pfizer quickly determine what data was cold and then easily tier those files to Amazon Web Services (AWS), drastically cutting costs while creating a global tagged data lake to drive research and innovation. Importantly, for a company that relies heavily on data for research and testing, the initiative resulted in zero changes in how users access files.

Pfizer's Data Dilemma

Pfizer had 5 petabytes of unstructured data in scope for its cold data strategy: 64 percent of it had not been accessed in over two years. With non-stop data growth, the company needed a plan for "right-placing" it. Pfizer's on-premises storage environment is a global heterogeneous NAS environment with IT as the storage service provider. Pfizer's team needed visibility, an ongoing strategy for applying business rules for analytics, and better insight into the data it was hosting. "With data growing exponentially, we wanted to look at a better way, using analytics, to still have data on a highly available platform, but to make investments where it makes sense," explained the director of hosting data services at Pfizer. "And where it doesn't make sense to have a highly available platform, push it to a more cost-effective platform."

Komprise and Pfizer: Creating a Cold Data Strategy and Accelerating Migration to AWS

Pfizer turned to Komprise, an AWS Storage Partner, to meet those requirements. Komprise gave Pfizer a way to quickly analyze all its data and transparently tier cold files to AWS, cutting costs while building a global tagged data lake to drive business innovation. "What sets Komprise apart compared with other solutions is the end-to-end process of analyzing and moving data," said Krishna Subramanian, COO & Cofounder, Komprise. "You can use Komprise to scan all your data, analyze costs and create business rules and then Komprise will act automatically against those rules."

With a focus on research data on NAS, Pfizer found large amounts of data eligible for tiering. Komprise analytics helped Pfizer make decisions on which data should be tiered to AWS by understanding what data was on NAS, who was using it, how much of it was cold, and what kind of data it was.

Pfizer

ABOUT PFIZER Pfizer is one of the world's premier biopharmaceutical companies responsible for creating life-saving vaccines, including the Covid-19 vaccine.

"A lot of times I come in and feel like it's Christmas morning because we had planned 100TB to go out the door and it's 115TB because Komprise did their next scan and pulled some data I wasn't counting on that aged out."

–Director of Housing Data Services, Pfizer

"Amazon S3 provides a great foundation—the water in the data lake—that can help customers build on other services such as analytics, which integrate seamlessly with Amazon S3 and, with Komprise, can help customers unlock the value of that cold data."

–Anthony Fiore, Sr Migrations Solutions Architect, AWS

Komprise Intelligent Data Management was deployed in Pfizer's on-premises NAS datacenter and archived data to Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3). Pfizer's cost savings in the first 90 days alone were enough to cover the full cost of the Komprise solution.

The benefits for Pfizer: Analytics-driven data management

Komprise helped Pfizer stop 20 years of increasing storage costs. Komprise used analytics across multi-vendor storage environments to plan Pfizer's data management and data movement to AWS. In the last year alone, Pfizer has migrated two petabytes of cold data to Amazon S3. They were able to tier unstructured cold data to the cloud without affecting or changing how users access it, which was a crucial element in the research and testing process. The Komprise dashboard and management tools allow visibility, with a color-coded data status and age, so the different stages of the data are clearly identifiable.

Pfizer loves the systematic data management Komprise provides, as it frees them up to work with their business users on finding new uses for the data. Pfizer now uses Komprise Deep Analytics to build different searches and queries on their data so they can create data lakes in AWS for further use in the cloud, leveraging insights from big data and AI, truly unlocking the data's potential.

"It's exciting that our researchers actually want to accelerate data movement using Komprise because they can analyze the data on AWS," says the Pfizer IT director.

Pfizer saved over 75 percent on storage and cloud migration costs by accessing the powerful analytics Komprise offers. Cost savings came from removing manual data management and having Komprise intelligently and automatically move cold data from high-priced, on-premises storage to more cost-effective storage on Amazon S3. If it needs to, Pfizer can directly access the data in AWS as Amazon S3 objects natively without paying fees to Komprise or paying egress fees, further reducing cost concerns.

The business impact of data management with Komprise speaks for itself. Pfizer gained efficiencies across the organization and unlocked value from data moved to AWS. They can reinvest those discovered resources into their central mission—driving better patient outcomes.

ABOUT KOMPRISE

Komprise powers the connection between unstructured data management and AI. Komprise Intelligent Data Management delivers a single platform to easily analyze, migrate, transparently tier and manage the lifecycle of petabytes of file and object data across hybrid environments. With Komprise, enterprise IT gains full visibility across silos to optimize storage, backup, ransomware and cloud costs. Komprise Smart Data Workflows and the Komprise Global File Index unlock unstructured data insights and access for AI.

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