

CGI Archiving as a Service

The explosive growth of data is adding complexity and expenses to most IT environments. CGI Archiving as a Service helps organizations control expenses and simplify their operations by archiving data into the CGI Cloud.

The bulk of today's data growth comes from unstructured data, such as business documents, back office files, computer-aided design, computer-aided manufacturing and Web content. In an effort to store, process, optimize and serve this information back to end users, many organizations have built large network attached storage (NAS) environments. These sprawling environments require continual storage investments. They are costly to manage and drain resources needed for an organization's most valuable data.

With CGI Archiving as a Service you can tackle challenges associated with unstructured data growth successfully while improving the performance, scalability and manageability of your existing storage environment.

CGI Archiving as a Service relieves capital expenditure and oversubscription of storage and reduces management overhead and other operational expenses. When you offload legacy or shared data to CGI cloud storage, we use our hardware, software and technical teams to maintain that data for you, while you pay only for the storage you are assigned in a true pay-per-use model with full flexibility to increase or decrease your usage (flex up/down).

CGI Archiving as a Service is designed to help you manage the growth of unstructured data, archival data, compliance and backup data through archiving to a scalable and more cost-effective tier of storage.

This storage tier is provided via CGI cloud storage that is consumed on-demand and provides a low cost alternative to onsite storage. CGI cloud storage provides seamless integration with traditional onsite IT infrastructure to enable complete flexibility for aligning consumption and cost to the needs of your business. We manage your unstructured and archive data growth so you can focus on your business priorities.

FULLY MANAGED DATA ARCHIVING SERVICES

Fully managed CGI data archiving services include:

- An object storage solution that enables you to store, share, protect, preserve, analyze and retrieve file data from an enterprise-level cloud platform.
- Move content from on-site primary stores into off-site CGI cloud storage.



FACT SHEET

CGI ARCHIVING AS A SERVICE:

Reduce expenses, complex storage management and risks associated with sensitive backups.

- Store copies of files remotely in a secure facility, reducing or eliminating backup. Automatic versioning of data as it changes eliminates the need to perform traditional backups.
- Monitor consumption and availability, addressing any issues before they impact service level agreements (SLAs).
- Allow versioning of files returned to the cloud with changes.
- Enable on-demand capacity requests and pay-as-you-go pricing.
- Adhere to efficient management practices that keep prices low.
- Provide “write once, read many” (WORM) functionality for data retention enforcement and compliance.

IS DATA ARCHIVING FOR YOU?

CGI cloud storage for data archiving is ideal for organizations that need to:

- Centrally archive data for and from remote and branch offices.
- Reduce and reclaim storage on older NAS environments to improve performance and storage utilization.
- Support policy-enabled archive of Microsoft Exchange® and SharePoint® content to the cloud.
- Archive infrequently accessed content to relieve the burden in primary systems.
- Support archival for compliance and content preservation.
- Remotely store and access archived data.

PREDICTABLE BUDGETING

A remotely managed data archiving service helps you budget for operational expenses. That’s why we make pricing simple to understand and give you options for increased savings. A no-surprise pricing approach is easy to understand, minimizes fluctuation, and allows you to predict your costs.

BENEFITS

CGI data archiving can play an important role in relieving the problem of storing, managing and protecting increasing data volumes. We target your most challenging storage problems with integrated solutions that eliminate up-front capital expenditure for your assets and minimize operational expenses brought on by data growth and management complexity.

Reduce costs:

- Gain back production time by reducing the amount of storage requiring backup.
- Align payment with the volume of storage consumed.
- Enable chargeback based on usage.
- Decrease management overhead and tape expense by eliminating backups at the edge in favor of centralized, advanced replication at the core.

ABOUT CGI

Founded in 1976, CGI is a global IT and business process services provider delivering high-quality business consulting, systems integration and managed services. With 68,000 professionals in 40 countries, CGI has an industry-leading track record of delivering 95% of projects on time and within budget, aligning our teams with clients’ business strategies to achieve top-to-bottom line results.

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- Decrease your total ownership costs by transforming file storage from a capital expense into an operating expense.

Reduce complexity:

- Scale easily to meet fluctuating capacity needs.
- Simplify storage administration by consolidating content from multiple sites or SharePoint environments.
- Automate enforcement of regulatory, governance and data lifecycle policies.
- Centralize backup, compliance and lifecycle management.
- Simplify search and retrieval of archived data.

Reduce risk:

- Protect content with encryption, WORM, replication, RAID, data integrity checks and more.
- Get full integration with Microsoft Active Directory® and Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP).
- Meet your service level objectives and protect mission-critical content with improved backup and recovery time.
- Ensure compliance by setting retention, litigation hold and shredding policies.

Use Case #1: Streamline File Tiering to Increase Performance and Production Time

Much of the data residing on expensive primary storage goes untouched after 3 to 6 months. However, it often remains in place much longer because of the time and difficulty involved in cataloging it and either deleting or moving it, depending on its compliance profile. This inactive data consumes costly capacity and can impact performance. In the event of an outage, businesses must restore massive amounts of content that may not be critical. This poses a threat to recovery time objectives and business continuity.

Without an alternative such as CGI Archiving as a Service, storage growth forces businesses to purchase and support additional NAS platforms. This adds to the data center footprint and to the resources required to oversee an increasingly complex storage environment. Storage growth can overwhelm the ability of backup systems to collect all data within the available backup window. A failure to achieve full protection within a backup window can put SLAs at risk, result in lost datasets, and add weeks to a project.

With a file tiering solution such as CGI Archiving as a Service, you gain a simple and effective way to reduce content on primary NAS. You can delay the purchase of additional Tier 1 storage by tiering infrequently accessed files to CGI cloud storage. Storing data on the most cost-effective tier decreases your total cost of storage ownership by at least 25%.

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Use Case #2: Simplify the Delivery of File Services to Satellite Offices

Providing file services to remote and branch offices is a time-consuming and expensive undertaking that requires backup of all edge devices to a disaster recovery site and constant management of storage system capacity, usage and performance. Remote offices need a NAS system for their own files, and they rely on the home office for version control, security and quick and easy access to shared network files.

As data volumes increase at the edge, enterprises struggle to budget for more storage hardware and a bigger data center footprint. They seek to devote more management resources to the needs of an increasingly complex IT environment.

Challenges include meeting service level objectives for access speed, upgrading hardware, and complying with corporate and regulatory standards for recoverability and data protection.

Combining CGI's Bottomless Edge-to-Core storage solution and CGI's Archiving as a Service solution, you gain a simple and cost-effective way to ensure a wide range of workloads. It enables distributed users to experience safe and easy file retrieval from a single, shared repository. Our integrated service offering helps you:

- Improve content sharing between sites (one namespace for multiple file systems, but only one system that can write to the namespace).
- Automatically move content into the core infrastructure to provide seemingly endless storage capacity at the edge.
- Keep at the edge only those files that are unique to each remote locale for shorter backup windows and less management overhead.
- Cache recently used files at the edge to meet low-latency SLAs.
- Ensure access to the latest version of a document.
- Give authenticated users a familiar way to interact with storage, regardless of location.

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