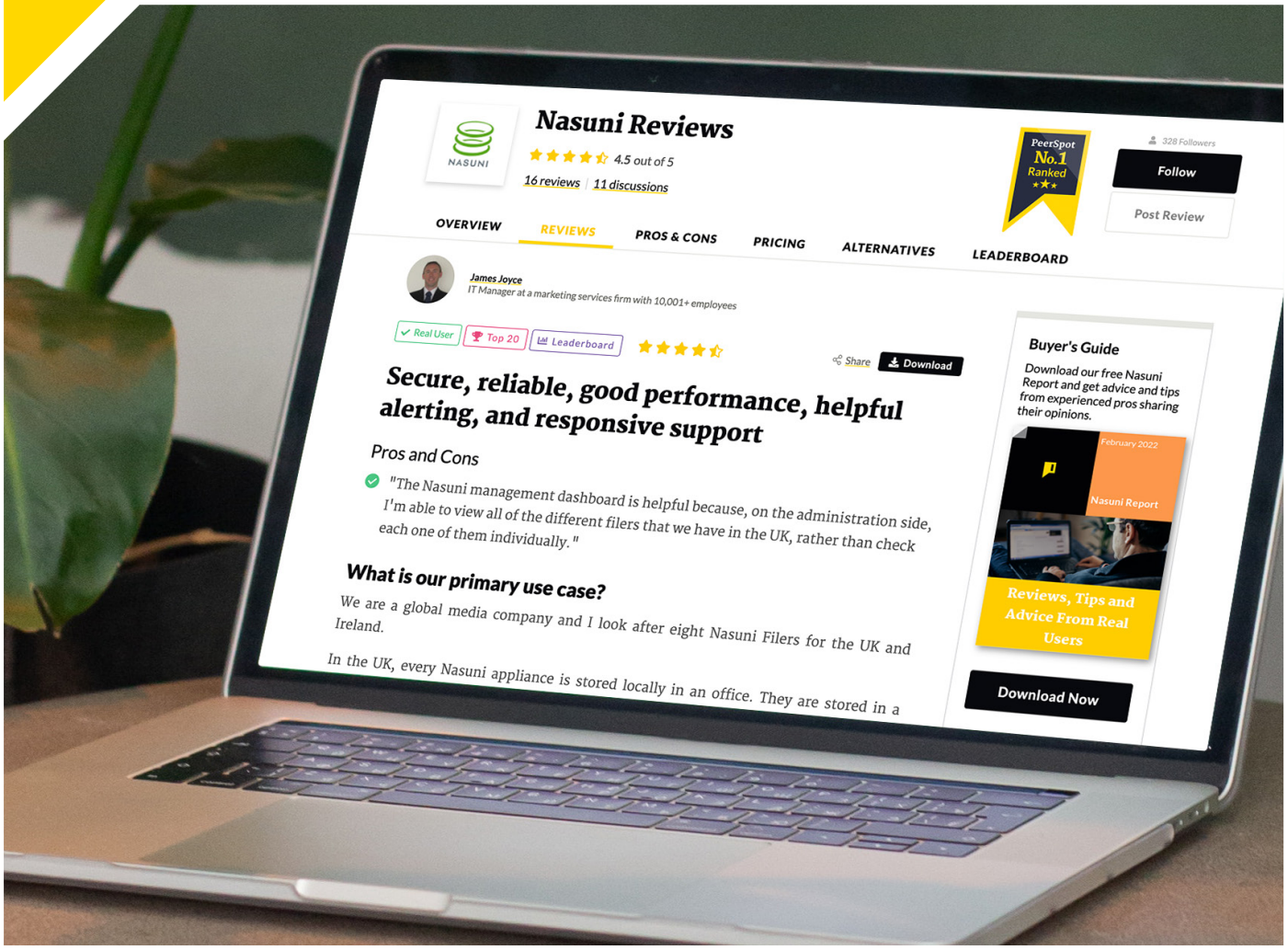
PeerPaper™ Report 2022

Based on real user reviews of Nasuni

Key Factors to Consider when Evaluating Enterprise Cloud File Storage Solutions



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Contents

Page 1. **Introduction**

Page 2. **Key factors to consider in evaluating an enterprise cloud file storage solution**

Ability to handle cloud migration

Ease of backup

Ransomware response capabilities

Potential cost savings

File synchronization between offices

A single, global file system with no file, directory, volume or location limits

Immutable continuous file versioning

Disaster recovery capabilities

Page 12. **Conclusion**

Introduction

Storage requirements never stop evolving. Thus, the idea of what constitutes an effective enterprise file storage solution has changed over time. As cloud computing and hybrid work become more common, and the cyber-threat landscape grows more ominous, storage managers are using a new set of criteria as they evaluate more modern file storage solution replacements.

In this paper, users of Nasuni cloud file storage weigh in on what makes for a good enterprise-grade solution, based on their reviews on PeerSpot, the independent customer review site. They reveal the key criteria that they considered when they evaluated potential cloud-based, enterprise file storage solutions. These include the ability to facilitate cloud migration, data protection, ease of backup and cost savings. Specifically, ransomware response and disaster recovery, along with speed of recovery, also emerged as important qualities in a solution.

Key factors to consider in evaluating an enterprise cloud file storage solution

Enterprise IT storage managers are under pressure to deliver information that is relevant, reliable and accurate. Senior business leaders need this to make decisions about their business operations and strategies. Success is partly a matter of selecting the right enterprise file storage solution. According to PeerSpot members, many other factors come into play, including cloud migration capabilities, disaster recovery and more.

Ability to handle cloud migration

Cloud computing's move into the mainstream presents an opportunity for storage managers who want to deploy cloud storage for enterprise IT use cases. The challenge is to organize and move files to the cloud quickly and without disrupting business. For these reasons and many others, storage managers want an enterprise file storage solution that aligns with their cloud migration strategy.

Provides a set-and-forget type of operation

A Server Analyst at a construction company with more than 500 employees was pleased with the ease of Nasuni's cloud migration capabilities. He elaborated by saying, "I used Robocopy to copy our data from the existing environment

[1] All the quotes are from real Nasuni customers, independently collected by PeerSpot. They can be read in full at PeerSpot.com. Per our guidelines, we don't refer to customers by name.

to Nasuni and it worked well. It was just a matter of copying the data to our physical Nasuni Edge Appliance and then it would automatically take snapshots and send them to the cloud. For me, overall, it was quite simple."

An IT Manager at a marketing services firm with over 10,000 employees acknowledged how Nasuni fits well into a cloud migration initiative. He stated, "If a colleague of mine at another company was concerned about migration to the cloud and Nasuni's performance, I would say that based on the experience that I've had to this point, I definitely recommend it. I can recommend Nasuni just for reliability and scalability, as it definitely ticks those two boxes. I can't say anything other than good things about it."

According to a Systems Analyst at an outsourcing company with more than 5,000 employees, "Once you get migrated over to Nasuni and get your data in place, it's a very easy, very secure process to maintain that data, as opposed to having to run different backup agents for particular servers."

He further commented, "I would also say that you've got the unified file system, which allows all users at different locations to see the same data, and that is very difficult to do with a Microsoft system." He also found Nasuni's snapshot technology to be very reliable and very simple. As he put it, "Once it's configured, you can pretty much set it and forget it, with just some basic monitoring of it."

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"...having a central platform that can control our data and ensuring that it is intact, is extremely valuable for the way we do business."

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Delivers a 360-degree view of your data

Ease of backup

Backup is an essential part of data management for organizations, but it can be time-consuming, especially when using a number of patched-together systems inherited through mergers and acquisitions and leadership decisions over the years. With Nasuni's unified file system, all enterprise data is backed up in a central location to the cloud. This built-in capability contributes to ease of backup, an essential factor in selecting an enterprise file storage system.

For the outsourcing company's Systems Analyst, ease of backup comes with Nasuni because the solution offers him "a set-and-forget type of operation." His company uses snapshotting to back up its data. He remarked, "With that snapshot continually running and always capturing the latest data, it's providing a backup at that point. It's very straightforward in terms of the impact on our IT."

A Chief Information Officer at a construction company with over 200 employees appreciated that the Nasuni Management Console "makes everything simple." He went on to say, "Related to that is the support that we received during our implementation, as well as the ongoing support that we get whenever we have any questions about configuration or otherwise."

For an IT Infrastructure Manager at a construction company with more than 500 employees, the backup benefit of Nasuni comes from providing his organization with a 360-degree view of its data. He explained, "As a construction company, we have to retain data for 10 years, or sometimes more. This means that having a central platform that can control our data and ensuring that it is intact, is extremely valuable for the way we do business."

"Eliminating the on-premises infrastructure has reduced our costs by a good 50 percent. We have also had decreased capital costs because the cost of the appliances has gone down."

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Reduced costs by 50 percent

Ransomware response capabilities

The PeerSpot reviews of Nasuni also revealed that organizations want to quickly respond to ransomware attacks. Because ransomware is one of today's most serious cyber-threats, Nasuni customers emphasized the importance of incorporating ransomware recovery capabilities into their file storage solution.

For example, according to a construction company IT Infrastructure Manager, "We use the continuous versioning feature and although we have not had to recover from a disaster, it has given us the confidence that if something like a ransomware incident should occur, we have the ability to restore to a previous safe version. We are also confident that we would have the technical solution and support to ensure that we do not have a bad experience or a negative impact on our business."

The CIO of Jerde, another construction company, believes that having his company's data in the cloud is a significant advantage in terms of ransomware risk mitigation. He stated, "This has certainly relieved a lot of pressure from our IT department in regards to having a backup as well as preventing some ransomware in all of our offices. That has definitely been a big plus."

Figure 1 – Local file servers in offices can be replaced by a single, global file system in the cloud.

Potential cost savings

The right enterprise file storage solution will generate a return on investment (ROI) by helping to cut "hard" and "soft" costs. The former refers to actual expenditures, while the latter is about indirect financial factors like improved productivity. This was the experience of a Head of Information Technology at a small financial services firm. He commented, "Eliminating the on-premises infrastructure has reduced our costs by a good 50 percent. We have also had decreased capital costs because the cost of the appliances has gone down."

A company can also achieve a high ROI by switching their enterprise file storage solution from a capital expense (CapEx) to an ongoing operating expense (OpEx). CapEx savings help conserve cash, which may be a significant financial advantage to a business. "We were definitely able to save some money because we've eliminated those expensive SAN disks completely," said a Server Engineering Services Lead at a mining and metals company with over

~35%

savings

10,000 employees. He went on to say, "There were some servers at our old data center that we were able to get rid of, as well." A Team Lead at a tech services company with over 200 employees concurred, offering the following assessment in his PeerSpot review: "...it has lowered our cost of operations and reduced our workload. Our savings through using Nasuni is approximately 35%."

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File synchronization between offices

Just as people expect personal files and photos to synchronize across all their devices, so should files in the workplace synchronize across all office locations if required. This should not be complicated and slow. File synchronization between offices thus emerges as a selection criterion for enterprise file storage solution.

For instance, a construction company with over 200 employees has twelve offices. Their Chief Information Officer wanted employees to be able to collaborate from a single, global file system. Nasuni helped him achieve this goal. He explained, "Prior to Nasuni, each office had its own on-premises file server and there was no real collaboration on a single set of data. We had data silos operating independently at each location and when we would win a project, it was very difficult to collaborate between offices." Figure 1 captures his use case.

As he shared, "Nasuni came in and looked at all our offices and data within our workflows and made the requisite recommendations. In the end, all of our active business data was consolidated and synchronized into one universal global drive that was automatically backed up every 15 minutes and accessible by all staff in all offices."

"Using Nasuni enables us to provide file storage capacity anywhere and on-demand, without limits."

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A single, global file system with no file, directory, volume or location limits

Space limitations are one of the great drawbacks to on-premises storage solutions. Ideally, an enterprise file storage solution will enable the opposite—no volume limits in a global system. Such an unlimited file storage capability turns out to be one of the Nasuni file storage solution's appealing features, according to real user reviews on PeerSpot. This is crucial for businesses that want to keep all of their data in one place but don't want to be bound by storage capacity.

A tech services' IT Team Lead was impressed that Nasuni offers a central location to store data. He said, "Nasuni has helped us to replace multiple silos and tool sets with a single, global file system, which is important to us because we can centralize our data. Having it centralized means that we can secure it easily, as well as provide granular access to users."

Meanwhile, a construction company's IT Infrastructure Manager liked that Nasuni provides an on-demand file storage solution that works from any location. He further discussed the features, noting, "Using Nasuni enables us to provide file storage capacity anywhere and on-demand, without limits, which is important to us because we're quite a distributed company and we have lots of different remote locations."

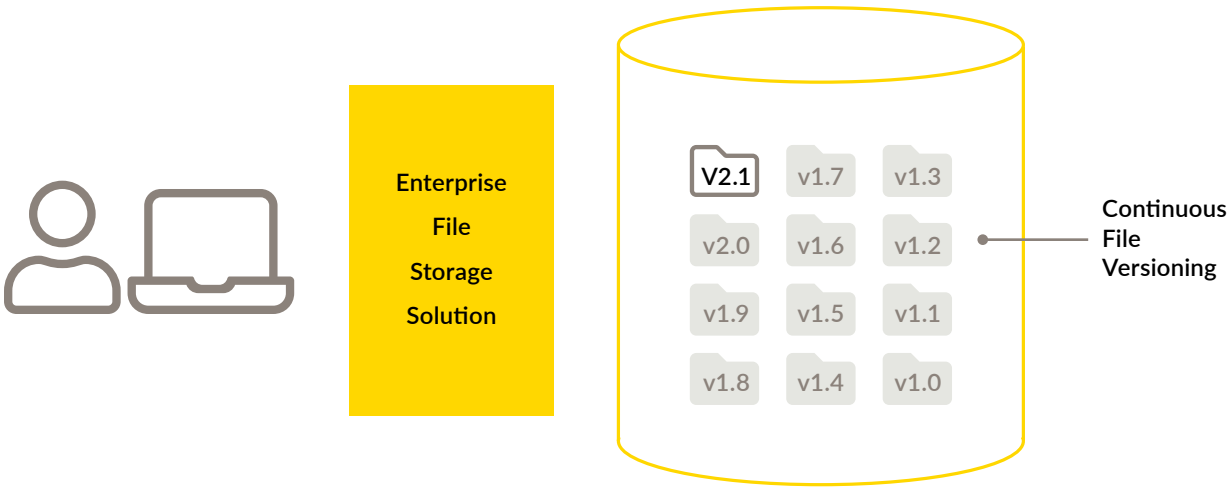

Figure 2 – Continuous file versioning.

He further related, "We don't have enough storage to have a server on each site, so it's really beneficial that we have easily accessible, centralized storage. The bottom line is that it's easy for us to support lots of different remote users in one simple solution." Similarlly, a Technical Director at a construction company with over 10,000 employees similarly explained, "It is without limit. It grows per the need. In one year, I haven't seen anybody requesting any new spaces yet."

All active business data is backed up every 15 minutes

Immutable continuous file versioning

PeerSpot members emphasized that an effective enterprise file storage solution should offer continuous versioning capabilities for individual files. Continuous versioning provides a backup of a user's data in case they accidentally delete or change their files. This service is critical for both individual users and organizations. Figure 2 offers a simple representation of this function.

A Managing Director of IT at a construction company pointed out that Nasuni provides continuous file versioning down to the granularity of the snapshots, which occur about every 15 minutes. He went on to say, "If there was a ransomware or other disaster type of event, only the data in the cache on the local appliance would be affected. The entire snapshot history of every file is backed up in the cloud. We can, on a file-by-file, directory-by-directory, or volume basis, recover any or all files from that snapshot history back into the local appliance. The only impact would be the time to copy the data back from the cloud snapshot back into the local appliance."

The Head of Information Technology at a financial services firm also found Nasuni's continuous file versioning feature advantageous. He said, "There have been many times that people have called me and said they need a file at a specific point in time. We're able to provide that recovery, which is great." Previously, when they were backing up once a day with a traditional storage area network (SAN), file versions would be lost within a week. He added, "In terms of restores, people delete things by accident all the time and having the ability to restore has been great."

A Sr. Systems Analyst at a government agency with more than 500 employees also appreciated Nasuni's Continuous File Versioning feature. In fact, he stated, "If somebody accidentally deletes something, we have a version history available for the file system. So, if somebody were to accidentally go out there and make a change to the wrong document, or go out there and actually delete the document, we have multiple versions of that file that we can recover from to restore it, which is good. So, there is some type of disaster recovery."

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> "If a filer [Nasuni Edge Appliance] goes down, or a [VMware] ESX server goes down, then we can quickly recover."
>
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Disaster recovery capabilities

The ability to offer restores at any point in time without requiring a remote, duplicated infrastructure, makes an enterprise file storage solution a key element of a disaster recovery (DR) plan. Storage managers want their solutions to restore data quickly and easily in the event of a disaster". For an IT Team Lead at a technical services firm, Nasuni served this purpose well. He said, "This solution has helped us to reduce the time it takes to recover data in the event of a disaster.

He further elaborated that his company switched to Nasuni "because it was much faster to use Nasuni but also, we had issues with storage limitations. We were storing all of our disaster recovery backups on one server and for example, we would consume one terabyte for the month. We needed an on-premises server for this and had to worry about things like security. These are no longer issues for us and overall, Nasuni has been beneficial."

A mining company's Server Engineering Services Lead made the point that Nasuni's most impressive features are its operational recovery (OR) and (DR) capabilities. He went on to say, "If a filer [Nasuni Edge Appliance] goes down, or a [VMware] ESX server goes down, then we can quickly recover. For example, we lost a controller the other day and all of the drives were corrupted. We were able to quickly repoint all of the users to a backup appliance that we have at our data center, they were back up and running within minutes, and they still have read-write capabilities." In that case, once that ESX server was fixed, his team was able to repoint everything back to it in a matter of minutes. He added, "People were then again using their local appliance to connect."

Conclusion

Proper file storage solutions are more essential than ever as organizations adapt to cloud and hybrid work environments and cybersecurity concerns become more pressing. PeerSpot reviews show that firms look for modern characteristics when determining which storage solution is appropriate for these ever-changing demands. Some of the features they seek include:

- Unlimited cloud-based storage without the need to purchase hardware or software
- Continuous File Versioning (CFV) for restores from any point in time
- Rapid ransomware and disaster recovery capabilities
- Easy cloud migration off their legacy systems
- A robust data backup capability
- ROI cost savings

Overall, real customers at PeerSpot found that Nasuni met these criteria. The solution allows companies to maximize their IT infrastructures and reduce downtime, while enabling easy cloud migration and other essential features.

About PeerSpot

User reviews, candid discussions, and more for enterprise technology professionals.

The Internet has completely changed the way we make buying decisions. We now use ratings and review sites to see what other real users think before we buy electronics, book a hotel, visit a doctor or choose a restaurant. But in the world of enterprise technology, most of the information online and in your inbox comes from vendors. What you really want is objective information from other users. PeerSpot provides technology professionals with a community platform to share information about enterprise solutions.

PeerSpot is committed to offering user-contributed information that is valuable, objective, and relevant. We validate all reviewers with a triple authentication process, and protect your privacy by providing an environment where you can post anonymously and freely express your views. As a result, the community becomes a valuable resource, ensuring you get access to the right information and connect to the right people, whenever you need it.

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About Nasuni

Nasuni provides modern cloud file storage, powered by the world's only cloud-native global file system. Nasuni is a cloud replacement for traditional network attached storage (NAS) and file server silos, consolidating file data in easily expandable cloud object storage at a fraction of the cost. Nasuni also eliminates the need for complex legacy backup and disaster recovery infrastructure, dramatically simplifying IT administration. Companies and organizations worldwide rely on Nasuni to easily access and share files globally from the office, home or on the road. Nasuni's corporate headquarters is based in Boston, Massachusetts, USA delivering services in over 70 countries around the globe. For more information, visit www.nasuni.com.