Regain Control of your Valuable Data with Interlock A3 Data Extraction and Migration to AWS

Keeping records in hard copy format for an extended period was simple, put it in a box in the closet with a card catalog, maybe. The move to digital record management has created a new challenge for the retention of documents in compliance with industry and government regulations. Not only is there a need to store data in a retrievable format, it also must be secure, maintain integrity, and be auditable for chain of custody. Unlike the longevity of paper as a data media, digital drives and systems have a life span of less than 10 years. This creates a challenge for administrators; how to move data to new storage platforms while maintaining compliance with data retention regulations? This is the type of challenge a multi-national retailer was facing. Over 450TB of compliance data was stored in a NAS, managed by a proprietary application.

Digitization of data has created new long-term archiving challenges.

The impetus to move data was the closing of its primary datacenter; all data had to be moved to the cloud. Initially, the company asked its incumbent application vendor to recommend a solution within their family of products and services. The proposal was to move data from its on-premises infrastructure into a cloud-based SaaS platform. The data would remain in the cloud for up to 10 years.

The Challenge

Reasons why the proposed solution was declined.

- Cost – the company wasn't sure of the value of data or how frequently this data would be accessed going forward. The cost of the proposed SaaS solution seemed excessive when viewed against the perceived value of data and any compliance and litigation risks associated with it. The company wanted to maintain control over their data while storing data in a cost-effective manner. Neither of these demands would have been met by the proposal.

- The company estimated that it would take 43 years to migrate data using the incumbent's application.

Suggested migration would only complete in the year 2066.

The Solution

The company sought alternative solutions to its predicament. It decided that the best solution would be to extract the data from its current environment and place it in a cloud bucket in AWS with a database and a search engine to help find needed data. The company spoke to several service providers, who all agreed to try the extraction and migration, but had no experience doing it or could not articulate how they would perform the tasks. The company itself lacked the necessary know-how to manage the migration.

The company was introduced to Interlock Technology as a solution provider with proven capabilities to extract and migrate data to AWS. The company requested a POC to demonstrate the process. Once it had been decided that Interlock Technology were to perform the migration, a project plan was established based on Interlock's four step methodology. During the discovery phase, Interlock was able to gather information about the data (metadata) that provided the company with insights into how many files existed, their location, type of files, and when last accessed. The assessment of the source and target environments provided guidance on how long it would take to extract and migrate all data. Once the company was ready with its new environment in AWS, Interlock initiated the extraction and migration. The process was completed in 4 weeks.

Moved 22TB/Day
Moved 175.9 M Files
Throughput 280 MB/s

The Outcome

The extraction and migration of data was completed in a fraction of the expected time. Completing the job in the required time frame provided the company with ample time to close the datacenter as planned. Keeping the datacenter open longer would have cost the company additional money.

Though the company didn't expect to migrate all versions of files that were tiered off the NAS leaving a stub behind, Interlock was able to retrieve and migrate all versions. Having all data reside in the cloud without stubs gave the company access to all its data and its versions.

TCO Savings of 86% over 10

The solution the company was able to implement is projected to cost 1/10th of the price proposed by the incumbent vendor for its SaaS offering. The extraction and migration costs in the first year of a 10-year retention period accounted for less than half of what the company would have paid the incumbent in that year. The overall TCO savings were 86%.

The Summary

A³ data mobility aligned with the retailer's business objectives.

There are many instances of trapped data. Data may be trapped by an application, as it was in this instance, but can also be trapped by an outdated protocol or format. The company could have succumbed to its incumbent vendor if it couldn't extract its data and move it to an open location. Interlock Technology were able to deliver a compliance-based project with chain-of-custody reporting resulting in 86% projected savings over the alternative. The company felt that Interlock "*really listened, adapting to needs, being proactive, and responsive in their communications with the team.*" The experience demonstrated the value of any to any data mobility without application, storage, or protocol lock-in. The company is available to speak with those interested to learn more; please contact mcavers@interlock-tech.com to set up a call.