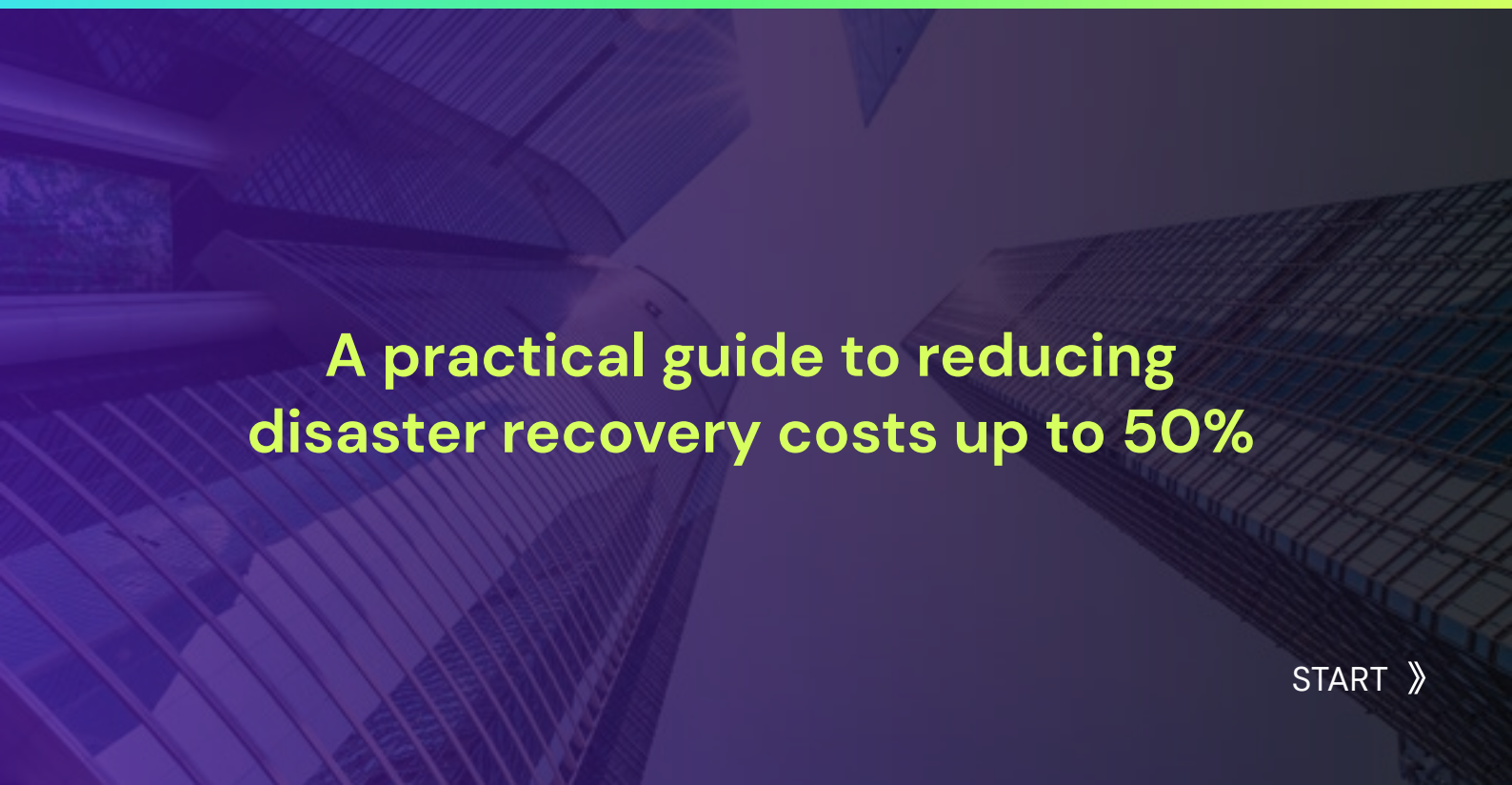
HYCU

EBOOK

How to improve your disaster recovery for Nutanix environments



A practical guide to reducing disaster recovery costs up to 50%

START ⟫

A modern, cost-efficient and flexible disaster recovery solution for your Nutanix environment.

If you're like many of the organizations we speak with, you've already taken your first step by adopting Nutanix to tap into the power and flexibility of hybrid cloud infrastructure. Yet you still need to take that next step: leverage the public cloud for disaster recovery. Disaster recovery (DR) to the public cloud trades in your physical secondary site for public cloud infrastructure, giving you added flexibility. With HYCU, you get a modern, cost-efficient, and flexible DR solution that, in the event of a disaster, allows you to rapidly failover from your on-premises environment to the cloud and then failback when needed, keeping your business running.

We live in an age of extreme weather fueled by climate change and rampant cyberattacks, on top of all the mundane occurrences of equipment failure and power outages. If it feels like disasters are becoming more frequent, more severe, and closer than ever to home, it's because they are. Natural disasters have increased fivefold over the last 50 years, according to the World Meteorological Organization.*

Disasters are more common and their impacts more costly to businesses today. The Uptime Institute found that 60% of outages resulted in downtime that cost over $100,000 in losses to the business, while 15% of the time that cost is over $1,000,000. That's a big, unexpected cost. The worst part, however, is the Uptime Institute's research found that it's also a common occurrence: 80% of datacenter managers and operators have experienced an outage in the last three years.**

*Irfan U., Why disasters are getting more severe but killing fewer people (2022)

**South B., Uptime Institute's 2022 Outage Analysis Finds Downtime Costs and Consequences Worsening as Industry Efforts to Curb Outage Frequency Fall Short (2022)

The reality is that legacy data protection and disaster recovery (DR) solutions have failed to keep pace with the cost-efficiency and ease-of-use commonly found in other areas of a modernized IT infrastructure, like your Nutanix environment. Traditional DR approaches are costly and don't integrate with public cloud infrastructure. With every passing year, the negative impacts of managing traditional DR are compounded—an aging, clunky cost center at the heart of modern, agile, and integrated IT infrastructure.

There are many reasons to re-evaluate the legacy DR and backup solutions protecting your Nutanix environment now, but for many businesses the most pressing reason may be the high total cost of ownership.

As your infrastructure and data protection needs have evolved, you've probably amassed a sizable amount of hardware and software and invested serious time to ensure you're ready to recover from a disaster.

With so much invested already, is it possible for you to change course and find a DR solution that is simpler and less expensive to manage while still providing sufficient protection against data loss and costly downtime?

In this eBook, we'll dive into the role that disaster recovery to the cloud can play to help reduce the overall cost of your DR operations and provide some questions to ask internally before seeing if it's the right fit for your organization and your Nutanix environment.

Why traditional DR is so expensive—and so hard to quit

It's never easy to figure out how to allocate the annual IT budget—but it is especially difficult for disaster recovery capabilities. On the one hand, you know that the price of not having a DR plan in place can be steep. Downtime and data loss are just the tip of the iceberg—harder to quantify costs like the impact on your brand's perception are just as important to factor in.

On the other hand, you know that the cost of maintaining any traditional secondary site for your chosen disaster recovery strategy—cold, warm, or hot—can be incredibly expensive for capabilities that are used only a handful of times each year. There are also the up-front costs for server hardware and network infrastructure, plus ongoing costs for staffing, power, cooling, and maintenance.

Why secondary sites drag budgets down

- Pay for upfront capacity
- CapEx-based
- Perpetual license model
- Separate support and licensing for all infrastructure

Associated costs of secondary sites

- Compute
- Storage
- Maintenance contract for hardware and software
- Networking
- Firewalls and security infrastructure
- Hypervisor and management tools
- Cooling and power
- Site costs (building, security, etc.)

The impact of the CapEx approach to disaster recovery infrastructure has a ripple effect on your entire organization. The upfront investment in new hardware and software licenses takes away cash flow from your other short-term needs. In a fast-paced IT environment, relying on your own on-premises hardware presents a Goldilocks problem: how do you keep just the right amount of secondary computing capabilities without overspending or getting caught without enough capacity in a disaster?

The ripples from maintaining a secondary site extend beyond the balance sheet. As your on-premises Nutanix environment scales to meet business needs, more pressure will be put on your IT team to maintain business continuity. Managing an on-premises secondary DR site involves a lot of labored, manual oversight, such as monitoring, patching, and maintenance. Why not take advantage of the public cloud for streamlined, cost-efficient DR for your Nutanix environment and alleviate this pressure?

Infrastructure competing for time and resources	Required activities
• DR infrastructure • Backup infrastructure • Storage and compute • Hypervisors • Networking and firewalls	• Monitoring • Patching • Maintenance • Installation, upgrade, and renewal • Sizing and planning • Failover testing

Many organizations have invested a lot of time and money protecting their Nutanix environments with a secondary site and legacy DR solutions. That can make it difficult to pull the proverbial plug (and the literal plug) on this strategy. Despite these sizable investments, more IT organizations are looking to move their disaster recovery site to the public cloud.

Why? Because it offers a cost-effective alternative to redundant physical sites, delivering technological and fiscal resilience in one move.

Let's examine what disaster recovery to the cloud for your Nutanix environment is and how most organizations can tap into it today to save time and money.

What is DR to the cloud?

Disaster recovery to the cloud trades in the physical secondary site for public cloud infrastructure. With a modern disaster recovery solution, you can failover to the cloud from your on-premises environment and failback when the on-premises infrastructure is safe and ready.

How DR to the cloud cuts your costs up to 50%

What makes DR to the cloud such a cost-efficient option for Nutanix users when compared to traditional secondary sites?

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the difference in the amount of infrastructure you're responsible for managing in both scenarios. By moving your recovery site to the cloud, you're eliminating huge up-front hardware costs and ongoing maintenance costs.

Legacy disaster recovery to a secondary site

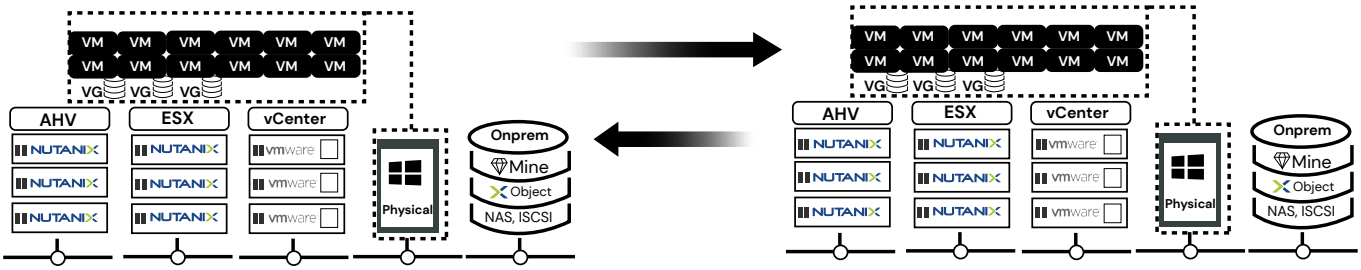


Figure 1: An example of redundant secondary site infrastructure.

Disaster recovery to cloud

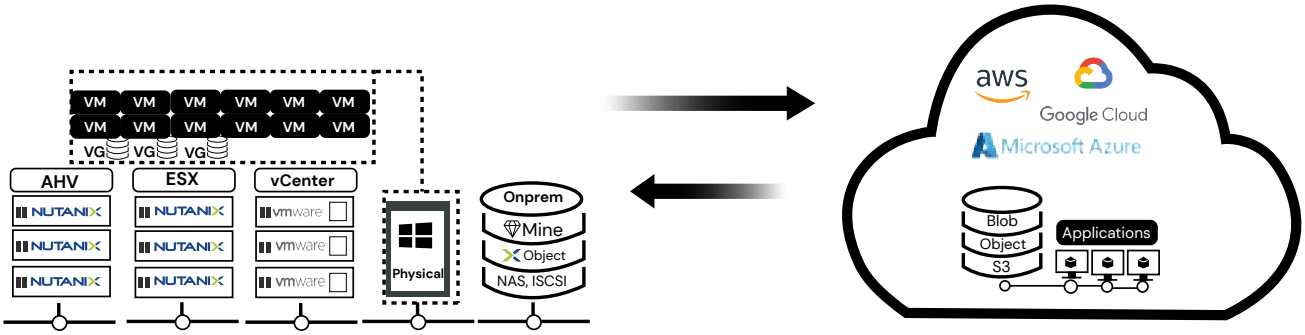


Figure 2: An example of how the public cloud simplifies disaster recovery infrastructure.

So, how do you decide whether your organization is ready for the cost savings of DR to the cloud?

Questions to ask before choosing DR to the cloud

1. What are my organization's DR priorities?

Ensure you have alignment on your unique DR strategy, such as how to balance cost and availability or the importance of geographic diversity for a recovery site. You also need clarity on what the business really needs in terms of Recovery Time Objective (how long an application/environment can be down before the business is damaged) and Recovery Point Objective (how much time can lapse between a disaster and the prior backup).

The answers to these questions can help you evaluate new DR solutions and the feasibility of using the cloud as a recovery site. It may be the case that some, if not all, of your DR goals can be met by today's modern solutions like HYCU. If so, there are likely significant cost savings and operational
benefits to be unlocked.

2. How much is a secondary site for my Nutanix environment really costing me today?

From hardware and software to recurring costs like power, cooling, and maintenance, the bill can add up quickly. Pulling together all the elements making up the TCO of your secondary site and DR solutions will help you understand the impact of moving to a pay-as-you-go, OpEx model.

3. What are the variables that will determine the impact of DR to the cloud on cost and other key metrics?

With DR to the cloud, you're not paying to own the infrastructure anymore; rather, your costs will depend on compute resources (which can be impacted by change rates, a.k.a. your Recovery Point Objective) and storage costs.

Some solutions like HYCU Protégé ensure you're not paying high-cost compute and storage costs until you need to perform a DR operation. Another consideration for your RTO is your network bandwidth, which will impact how quickly data travels to the cloud and back.

Some DRaaS solutions like HYCU Protégé ensure you're not paying high-cost compute and storage costs until you need to perform a DR operation. Another consideration for your RTO is your network bandwidth, which will impact how quickly data travels to the cloud and back.

4. Is my DR solution compatible with the public cloud?

If your company transformed from solely on-premises to a hybrid cloud environment, you know that legacy data protection solutions can add unnecessary complexity to your life. That's because it often takes multiple, redundant tools to cover the entirety of your environment, and their effectiveness often suffers when protecting or recovering to environments they're not natively built to handle.

Finding a simple, cost-efficient solution for your Nutanix and public cloud environments can be daunting. Solutions that cover multiple environments but aren't natively built for those environments can introduce clunky operations, like needing agents in the cloud.

5. What does it look like to bring my environment back from the cloud?

This is an important question for your DR strategy and any prospective vendor you may consider. If you have to recover your Nutanix workloads to the cloud, do you plan to bring them back to on-premises? How does each vendor handle that and what are the costs associated with returning to on-premises?

What are the benefits of using modern DR solutions like HYCU?

Disaster recovery to the cloud is not simply a cost-cutting measure. With the right DR solution, the impact of recovering to the cloud adds up to more than the sum of its parts.

Here's what you can experience when you choose HYCU Protégé as your DR solution for Nutanix.

- **Reduced TCO of DR by up to 50%**
  Eliminating the need for secondary data centers, additional hardware and licenses, and costly DR solutions can cut your costs in half.

- **Less downtime**
  Depending on the disaster, unprepared businesses can take weeks or months to recover. With HYCU, your recovery is measured in minutes.

- **Improved operational efficiency**
  Eliminating infrastructure maintenance frees up your IT teams to focus on being better prepared for disasters or working on other projects to help grow your business.

- **RTO Assurance**
  Accurately calculated recovery estimations ensure compliance with your business mandated Recovery Time Objectives.

- **A pathway to the cloud**
  Use disaster recovery capabilities of HYCU Protégé as a quick and cost-effective pathway to running your business in the public cloud, without having to completely replace your on-premises environment.

- **Minimize data silo sprawl**
  A single interface to manage disaster recovery and backup from on-premises to the cloud and back ensures you have the best visibility and control over your data without managing multiple, redundant, and incompatible solutions.

HYCU can help save your budget — and your sanity.

Your organization needs to be prepared for a disaster, but it shouldn't cost an arm and a leg—and your sanity—to keep the business going when calamity strikes. Legacy backup and DR solutions can't keep up with your growing Nutanix and public cloud environments, and you're left paying the price to make up for those shortcomings.

HYCU Protégé is a modern, purpose-built data protection solution designed from the ground up to simplify and unify backup, disaster recovery, ransomware recovery, and data migration for Nutanix, public clouds, and SaaS applications.

You can see it in action with a demo, or test It for yourself with a free trial. HYCU can't stop disasters, but we can help you make sure disaster recovery isn't one of them.

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