

## Solution Spotlight

# Data Protection Best Practices for Nutanix Environments

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### Introduction

Hyperconverged platforms such as those offered by [Nutanix](#) are becoming pervasive in enterprise environments because they allow more data and virtual machines to support good business outcomes. However, to ensure that business and application service levels are always met, a robust data protection strategy is needed as well. This document provides protection-related recommendations—spotlighting the Nutanix hyperconverged infrastructure solution and its purpose-built backup and recovery software from enterprise software firm [HYCU](#).

### The Changing Data Protection Landscape

The data protection landscape has been undergoing major transformations. New platforms have arisen. The cloud has become a part of the IT topology. And improving service levels—namely, recovery point objectives (RPOs) and recovery time objectives (RTOs)—is a bigger priority than ever. Rather than using one solution for all backup and recovery, a combined 58% of respondents surveyed by ESG now use specialized approaches to support specific workloads or legacy apps, or to leverage new (e.g., cloud-related) features/capabilities. Twenty-six percent of surveyed respondents report that protecting VMs is also a challenge for them.<sup>1</sup>

Traditional topologies are in decline, giving way to cloud IT and converged and hyperconverged infrastructure (CI/HCI). This situation is placing new demands on IT managers who must adequately protect the HCI solution. At first glance, that may seem counterintuitive, considering that HCI's core value proposition is to simplify the combination of compute, networking, and storage, thus providing flexible, easy ways to deploy resources to applications being served.

But backup processes and architectures are typically slower to evolve. And many data centers still use older, legacy protection products. They should consider moving to a more robust solution and implementing best practices to help mitigate HCI-specific data and workload exposures.

### Selecting the Right Backup and Recovery Solution for Nutanix

Protecting HCI data should involve common-sense best practices, with a keen eye on meeting RPOs and RTOs. A few recommendations:

- **Don't reinvent the wheel.** Use a solution that leverages the data protection underpinnings of the HCI platform through deep API integration. The Nutanix snapshot feature is a good example of a capability to look for. Backing up Nutanix Volume Groups is another good example.

<sup>1</sup> Source: ESG Master Survey Results, [2018 Data Protection Landscape Survey](#), November 2018.

- **Select a solution providing granular RPOs and fast RTOs** while minimizing the impact on the Nutanix platform. The more backups, the easier recovery will be.
- **Go native.** Make life easy for Nutanix HCI users by giving them a tool that looks like the Prism management interface familiar to them. The solution should be not only easy to deploy on Nutanix, but also intuitive to use.
- **Keep it simple.** Leverage the provided default and automated backup policies, and use a solution that auto-discovers applications, and then applies protection to them. This capability will save administrators hours of laborious discovery and benefit the organization's bottom line.
- **Keep it fast.** Ensure that the solution can quickly spin up a VM for immediate or instant recovery. That is a crucial capability when the goal is to deliver on data protection SLAs.

## Enter HYCU

HYCU was developed from the ground up for Nutanix HCI environments by experts in leveraging Nutanix APIs. The members of this team of more than 300 engineers have an average tenure of over ten years, and each has extensive experience with at least three backup and recovery solutions. They created software that is hypervisor-agnostic, with support for AHV and ESX. It runs on a single VM, so it is quick to set up and requires no expensive professional services.

Again, integration into the Nutanix environment is the key to success, and HYCU achieves that integration in a number of ways. HYCU can fully leverage the Nutanix scale-out architecture protocol, which helps with performance and load balancing to the target nodes. As with many successful modern solutions, ease of deployment is vital. HYCU looks and feels familiar to Nutanix Prism users. Additionally, it fully leverages the storage capabilities embedded in the HCI system for faster backups, improved snapshot retention, and mitigation of "VM stun" issues. The solution also includes AFS backup, and going to the cloud is possible with MS Azure, Amazon S3, and S3-compatible Cloudian- and Scality-based options.

## The Bigger Truth

Protecting HCI deployments is now critical. The backup solution used will affect data protection service levels and the ability to properly protect production applications and data. For Nutanix environments, as is usually the case with infrastructure systems, the deeper the software's integration with the platform, the more capability results. That has a direct impact on the ability of the IT team to efficiently deploy and manage robust data protection schemas.

Considering its deep integration with Nutanix APIs and a growing number of significant references, if you are looking for a robust and efficient Nutanix backup and recovery solution, you should take a close look at HYCU's capabilities.

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