

Microsoft Hybrid Storage

Microsoft Azure provides more integrated solutions and more options than AWS across your Hybrid Storage needs.



The Complex Landscape of Storage

The data explosion is here. And with 40% year-over-year data growth¹, it's no surprise that many organizations find storage to be their fastest growing datacenter cost. Cloud storage offers an economical alternative. But with the benefits of cloud storage come challenges of providing security, resilience, scalability, with flexible backup and disaster recovery capabilities.

Microsoft's Comprehensive Storage Solution

Microsoft Azure offers storage, data backup, and disaster recovery in one integrated solution that combines the best of on-premises and cloud. This means you can realize a comprehensive and cost-effective hybrid storage solution when compared with Amazon Web Services.

"Not only did Microsoft outperform the competition significantly during the raw performance tests, it was the only cloud storage platform to post zero errors during 100 million reads and writes."

Nasuni, State of Cloud Storage 2013

[Source](#)

Microsoft Azure hybrid storage offers:

Enterprise grade hybrid storage options. A consistent experience for multiple storage types—blobs, files, disks, tables, and queues—with flexibility for on-premises, hybrid, and cloud scenarios. Scale up to 50 storage accounts with petabytes of storage for the largest scenarios.

Integrated hybrid storage solution. StorSimple combines the data management functions of primary storage, backup, archive and disaster recovery with Azure integration—enabling a hybrid cloud storage solution through a single system and Azure.

Cloud-based and location independent disaster recovery. Azure Site Recovery orchestrates orderly replication and recovery of virtual machines across sites, whether workloads are physical or virtual. Test DR plans with minimum disruptions and resume operations after a disaster much faster than with physical tape.

Simple and reliable server backup to the cloud. Azure Backup enables reliable, efficient, and flexible backups, protected by encryption. Manage cloud backups by using familiar tools to configure data retention policies, data compression, and data transfer throttling.

Durability and high availability. Azure storage auto-replication helps ensure durability that is also highly available. A geo-redundancy option creates three copies hundreds of miles away for high availability and disaster recovery.

File share capability in the cloud. Use Azure Files (in preview) to set up a file share on top of Azure storage. Migrate legacy applications to Azure quickly and efficiently.

¹EMC Digital Universe with Research and Analysis by IDC, 2014



How they compare: Azure Storage vs. Amazon Web Services?

Microsoft Azure	Amazon Web Services
Enterprise hybrid storage	
StorSimple and Azure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simplified architecture and management• Local SSD/SAS tier for primary storage high performance• Integrated data protection and disaster recovery	AWS Storage Gateway: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First in market with provisioned IOPS storage• Complex architecture, setup, maintenance• Lacks on-premises solution• Network dependent, slower than local storage• No turnkey solution for cloud and primary storage integration
Disaster recovery	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recover data from virtually any location• Restore a site with orchestrated recovery• Automated health monitoring• DR tests with minimum disruption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No out-of-the-box integrated DR solution• Customers must create their own DR solution by using multiple services
Data replication	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Automatic geo-replication of data• Read-access geo-redundant storage• Data replicated across datacenters hundreds of miles apart	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Customers need to manually achieve geo-redundancy by creating EBS snapshots in S3• Geo-replication capability without guaranteed SLAs
File sharing	
Azure Files (in preview) enables a cloud virtual machine to read and write files just like it would against an on-premises file share.	There is no comparable capability offered by AWS at this time.

When comparing hybrid cloud storage, Microsoft Azure provides more integrated solutions and more options than AWS. With Microsoft Azure your business can achieve high availability and resilience, whether for scalable storage, cost-effective offsite backup, or disaster recovery.

Additional Resources

Azure Hybrid Storage <http://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/storage/>

What is Azure Storage? <http://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/documentation/articles/storage-introduction/>

Azure Storage, Backup, Recovery <http://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/solutions/storage-backup-recovery/>