Going the Extra Mile to Move Critical Data Efficiently and Securely to the Cloud

Moving terabytes of data per day, every day, to AWS S3 is quite a challenge, but one that Data Expedition's CloudDat executes with ease.

"We've come to rely on CloudDat as a solution for moving highly sensitive, massive data sets to the cloud."
— *Sudish Mogli, VP Engineering & Operations, 8K Miles*

Overview

8KMiles Software Services, headquartered in the San Francisco Bay area, is a global cloud and security solutions provider and next-generation cloud managed service provider (MSP). The company's secure cloud solution allows organizations in highly regulated industries to take full advantage of the cloud while meeting all regulatory compliance requirements. 8KMiles' customers are primarily in the healthcare IT, electronic healthcare records (EHR) consulting, and pharmaceutical industries. The team at 8KMiles works with enterprises to integrate and align cloud infrastructure requirements with business challenges. Transferring extremely large amounts of data per day is a typical requirement and can present many difficulties in the cloud environment.

Challenges

With the challenge of helping customers transfer very large data sets or files over an IPSec VPN to AWS S3, 8KMiles evaluated several data transfer tools and tried out different ways of accomplishing this task. 8KMiles established the data transfer requirement at 1TB per day over a 200Mbps VPN pipe, since this is a common scenario for customers. The data is often unstructured and very sensitive, requiring a highly elastic compute environment, all of which presents additional challenges in the cloud.

"We are trusted advisors for some very large, very well-known pharma companies," said Sudish Mogli, VP Engineering & Operations at 8KMiles. "They expect us to provide cloud solutions that overcome their challenges in bringing new pharmaceuticals to market more quickly."

For example, pharma companies collect vast amounts of real-world evidence for new drugs that must be analyzed for effectiveness after release to market. These companies

need to do this analysis quickly to make strategic decisions about how and to whom the drug is sold. The extremely large data sets often come from multiple sources, can be structured or unstructured, are highly sensitive, and require an elastic compute environment to meet changing requirements. Moving that data – quickly and securely to the cloud – necessitates use of a data acceleration tool that maximizes both network performance and reliability.

Solutions

In 2016, 8KMiles decided to move on from previous solutions, including WAN acceleration and Aspera high-speed file transfer software, and tested CloudDat™ from Data Expedition, Inc.® (DEI®). CloudDat – with DEI's proprietary Multipurpose Transaction Protocol® (MTP™/IP) – is "intelligent" in that it automatically adapts to network variability without human guidance. As a result, it's able to maximize available bandwidth, while minimizing time and effort required for data transport. CloudDat turned out to be the only solution that could meet 8KMiles' requirement to move 1TB per day reliably over a 200Mbps pipe to AWS S3.

After overcoming a few technical hurdles at the outset, 8KMiles was very quickly guided through testing and implementation by DEI support. Now up and running, 8KMiles often runs up to four small CloudDat instances for different environments like Test, Development and Production, and other dedicated project requirements that require separate transfers of their own. The ability to maintain multiple environments and adjust CloudDat usage to meet evolving goals ensures smooth operation at a reasonable cost.

8KMiles initially used CloudDat as a standalone deployment, but later integrated it with LDAP/AD for multi-user authentication. They also began using it for multiple project requirements, taking advantage of CloudDat's multi-tenant capabilities to share the same instances across multiple data sources and targets.

"We've come to rely on CloudDat as a solution for moving highly sensitive, massive data sets to the cloud," said Mogli. "Our team spends a lot of time evaluating and re-evaluating the tools we use and recommend to our customers, and CloudDat remains one we can count on to do its job efficiently and well."

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