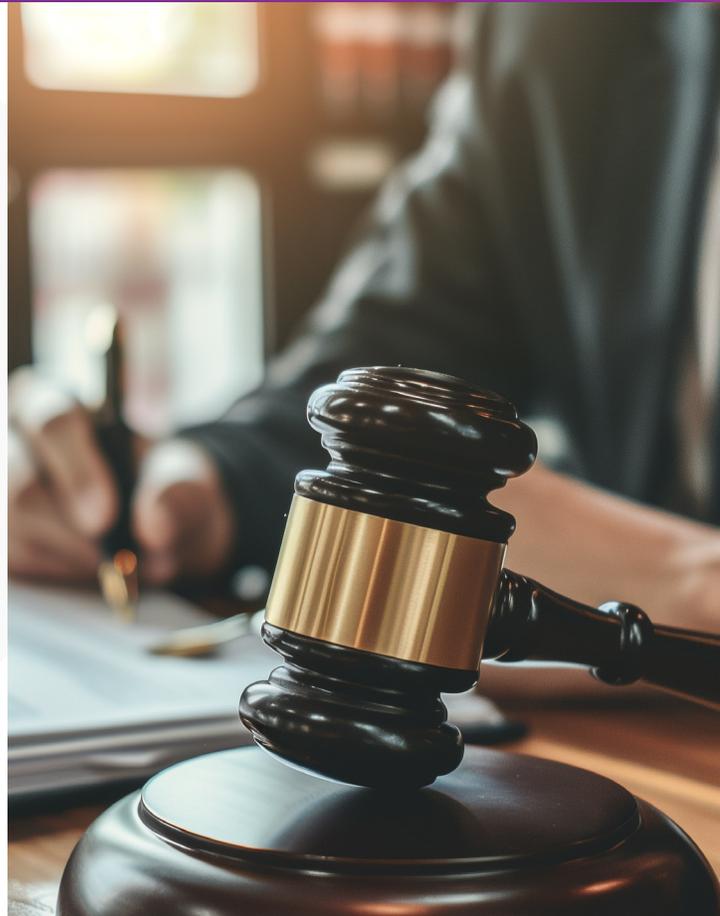


Global Law Firm Saves \$900K on Data Storage and Achieves Resilient Ransomware Protection in Azure with Komprise

Overview:

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP (Katten) is a full-service law firm, with approximately 700 attorneys in several major metropolitan locations across the United States as well as a couple of international locations including London and Shanghai. Katten delivers legal services across more than a dozen practice areas and sectors, including Aviation, Construction, Energy, Education, Entertainment, Healthcare and Real Estate.

Like many law firms, Katten struggles to delete much if any of its client-related data—one never knows when or if a case will be reopened. Like many other large law firms, Katten has been seeing an average 20% annual growth in storage for file related data, resulting in the need to add on-premises storage capacity every 12-18 months.



Key Stats

Industry: Legal

Data Analyzed: 500TB

Data Moved: 180TB +

Storage: Dell/EMC, Azure Blob

Use Cases: Data Tiering, Ransomware Defense

Results: \$900K in savings, no user disruption, ransomware protection via immutable object storage



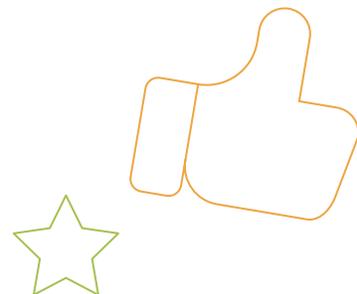
“We assumed that at least 60-70% of the data on our file shares was stale or had not been in used or accessed for several years,” said Alexander Diaz, Director of Infrastructure & Datacenter Operations, with Katten.

Data challenges and cloud initiatives

Primarily a Dell/EMC shop for more than 20 years, Katten was seeking a more cost-effective way to manage more than 500 TB of file data and growing. Prior to 2010, the firm had on-premises computer rooms with a storage array and physical server infrastructure at each of its locations. Today, the firm has transitioned all core infrastructure to offsite regional colocation facilities and has adopted virtualization, hyper-converged infrastructure (HCI), SaaS, and other cloud platforms to increase efficiencies.

Currently, Katten is looking to move most if not all its data and infrastructure to the cloud. **“Microsoft Azure is the firm’s cloud of choice,”** Diaz says. **“Most law firms I speak to take that approach because of their investment in Microsoft technologies as well as their in-house expertise on those platforms and the desire to not manage multiple clouds.”** In the initial phase of the cloud transition, Katten aims to shrink its on-premises storage through data tiering of files to Azure.

With a focus on managing costs in an environment where data is growing exponentially each year but cannot be deleted, and with growing concerns over ransomware which have affected many other law firms in recent years, the firm desired a solution that could provide deep data insights and the ability to move file data as it ages to immutable object storage in the cloud. This initiative would not only free up space on its expensive on-premises Dell/EMC NAS devices but deliver new anti-ransomware benefits at the same time and enhance their security posture.





Why Komprise

Diaz had used other enterprise archiving products in the past, but their use of proprietary stubs made them susceptible to corruption which in turn became problematic if or when data had to be accessed later. Komprise Transparent Move Technology or TMT™ (part of the Komprise Intelligent Data Management platform) incorporates symbolic links, which means there is no disruption to user or application access of tiered files.

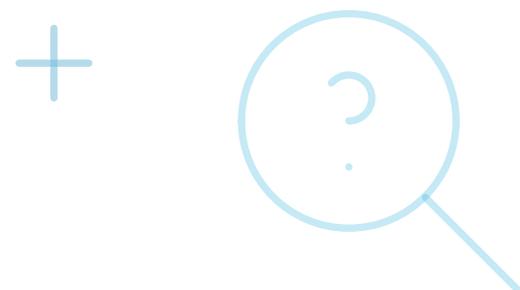


TMT delivers an added benefit: users can access their data directly in the cloud storage if needed, even if something happened to the symbolic link.



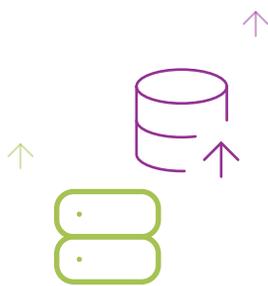
“We did extensive testing of Komprise, from accessing the files directly on the file shares to accessing them through the use of various applications and it was determined that there was no difference to the end-user experience, even with large litigation files,” Diaz says. “Everything just worked!”

Diaz also was drawn to the fact that with Komprise, he could programmatically tier files based on access patterns, or a “period of non-use” in which data is deemed cold and ready for archiving or can archive based on other metadata like client-matter information which could be associated with a case that was no longer active or closed.



Two use cases for tiering

Katten is using Komprise, with its petabyte-scale Global File Index and Deep Analytics, to scan its data for cases that have been deemed to be closed or no longer need regular access. Diaz' staff wrote a script in Deep Analytics with Actions to locate closed cases based on folder structure and metadata and automatically tier them to Microsoft Azure Blob cold storage. **"The only thing left behind on our file servers is the symbolic link, however we still have access to all of those files in Azure,"** Diaz explains.



Second, the firm is using Komprise to continually and automatically tier litigation data that has not been accessed or modified for over two years to Microsoft Azure Blob storage. Diaz says the firm has thus far archived over 180TB of data: **"We initially targeted the litigation shares because our litigation practice is by far the largest consumer of file storage on our storage arrays and the most likely source stale data. I think based on our findings; we could easily tier at least another 50TB this year."**

Benefits of Komprise Intelligent Data Management

\$900K cost savings: Katten Law has saved at least \$400,000 so far by avoiding having to augment the capacity of its storage arrays to keep pace with the increase in data. Further, the firm has plans to fully migrate off its current legacy storage platform to a new cloud enabled platform. Doing so will allow IT to purchase the platform configured with much less capacity, resulting in additional savings, with Komprise freeing up a significant amount of NAS file storage by tiering cold data to the cloud. Diaz predicts the re-platforming of its file storage could result in an additional savings of between \$500,000 - \$700,000.





No user disruption: An enterprise law firm with offices worldwide can't afford for its attorneys or support staff to suffer any productivity loss when they need to quickly access or retrieve files. With Komprise TMT, users access their archived files as if they had never moved, and the experience retrieving data from the cloud has also been simple, says Diaz:



"There have been a couple instances when we had a case reinstated and we had to restore files from Azure. We never lost the shortcut, which was a big relief."—Alexander Diaz



Ransomware protection in the cloud: "A lot of law firms have been hit with ransomware over the last five years," Diaz says. "While we have been lucky, we need to continue to take every possible precaution." By tiering 60-70% of its data to Microsoft Azure Blob storage, which is immutable object storage that is read-only access, Katten now has a more proactive security posture to thwart ransomware actors. The tiering also reduces its attack surface. "This has provided the firm with an even larger incentive to move stale data more aggressively to the cloud."



Cloud and AI journey: The Komprise independent unstructured data management solution has become an integral part of Katten's broader cloud strategy. "Even though we will be hybrid for the immediate future, eventually most of our data and systems will reside in our Azure IaaS instances and Komprise will have been instrumental in helping us get there faster with an excellent ROI," Diaz says.



Additionally, as the firm continues to investigate AI use cases for its petabytes of historical data, the ability for Komprise to allow native access to data that is archived in the cloud will be a critical requirement to enable AI tools to access this historical data. **Komprise Smart Data Workflows** can also provide automated processes for finding, tagging and move data to cloud data lakes as well as provide integrations with AI tools for metadata enrichment.



“Komprise has not only allowed the firm to reduce its on-premise storage requirements but has become a catalyst for our cloud strategy while at the same time providing us with a tool that enhances both our compliance and security posture, reducing our attack surface on an ongoing basis,” –Alexander Diaz, Katten Law.



ABOUT KOMPRISE

Komprise is a provider of unstructured data management and mobility software that frees enterprises to easily analyze, mobilize, and monetize the right file and object data across clouds without shackling data to any vendor. With Komprise Intelligent Data Management, you can cut 70% of enterprise storage, backup and cloud costs while making data easily available to cloud-based data lakes and analytics tools.

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