Energy Technology Company Saves 80% and Improves Data Lifecycle Management

LUMMUS TECHNOLOGY

Overview:

Lummus Technology specializes in energy process technologies for clean fuels, renewables, petrochemicals, polymers, gas processing and supply lifecycle services, catalysts, proprietary equipment and digitalization to customers worldwide. The company, founded in 1907, has developed 130 technologies and achieved 3,400 patents and patent applications.

Since 2021, Lummus has been moving to an all-cloud strategy, currently focused on Microsoft Azure. The IT organization needed a solution to help migrate off Azure NetApp Files as the service was prohibitively expensive for their use case, according to Lonnie Brown, IT systems administrator with Lummus.

Key Stats

Industry: Energy

Unstructured Data Management Solution: Komprise, deployed in 3 regions

Storage: NetApp, Azure Files, Windows File Server for Azure

Backup solution: Commvault and Azure

Use cases: Cloud Migration, Deep Analytics

Savings: Estimated 80% annual savings on storage and backup costs.

Solution

The company chose **Komprise Intelligent Data Management** for its granular reporting and analytics on unstructured data usage to inform decisions and to perform the migration, according to Brown. Lummus is using Komprise to improve cloud data migrations for maximum ROI and to make data lifecycle management easier and more aligned with the business.

- **Cloud Migration:** Lummus used Komprise to migrate 40TB of data from Azure NetApp to Windows File Server on Azure and Azure Files for archiving. **Komprise is now managing a total of 108TB of Lummus data in Azure—60TB of which had been moved prior to Komprise coming on board.** Lummus has retained only a 1TB share in the NetApp system which consists of non-critical user data. Brown says that he wants to begin cold data tiering with Komprise after evaluating cloud storage options.

- **Deep Analytics:** Komprise Deep Analytics is simplifying data movement decisions while also ensuring that users can still easily get their files whenever needed, thanks to Komprise Transparent Move Technology. "I was sold on Komprise because of the Deep Analytics insight that helps us understand business usage—especially seeing how much cold data we have so that we could get the migration done correctly," Brown says. **"Now I don't have to work with the departments to make these decisions; I can just put the data in cold storage. If users recall their files frequently, they will go back to the original location."**

Results

- **Cost savings:** Migrating from NetApp Azure to Windows File Server on Azure and Azure Files is saving Lummus roughly 80% on storage and backups annually. Using Komprise to correctly identify cold data for archiving—which Lummus defines as not accessed after two years—contributed significantly to the total savings achieved.

- **Right-placing data for business needs:** Like many global companies, data is distributed and accessed in many different places around the world. This can create latency issues if users are not located close to their data. For instance, developers in India accessing data shares based in the United States may require that the data be moved to a cloud zone in India to improve performance. The ability to use Komprise to drill down into data ownership, location and access metrics helps IT make the best decisions for the business.

- **Data lifecycle management through analytics:** With granular insight into its data assets, Lummus now has the knowledge to make smart business decisions such as consolidating shares to single disks to free up space. "And because nearly all of our storage is now on Azure, **I can use Komprise to make sure that Azure cold storage is the cheapest for me because Komprise is storage-agnostic**," Brown says.

- **Improved business collaboration:** When business users come to IT with requests for more storage capacity, Brown can quickly view metrics on owners and usage to eliminate any conflicts when making decisions. **"Working with departments is a lot easier now and we can make decisions much faster,"** he says.

With a more streamlined approach to unstructured data management and mobility, Lummus IT gains time to focus on strategic initiatives including a massive application modernization effort across the company. Once that process is complete, Brown says that he could see using Komprise to identify and transparently move data to cloud-based analytics or machine learning services.

"Komprise has been a wonderful solution for us to save a lot of money and analyze our data to optimize cloud migrations and archiving," says Brown. "As well, the Komprise customer success and support team has been super responsive to our changing needs during this journey."

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Lonnie Brown
IT Systems Administrator, Lummus

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