



INDUSTRY

AEC

CLOUD FILE STORAGE

Nasuni

OBJECT STORAGE

Azure Blob Storage

USE CASES

NAS Consolidation; Multi-Site Collaboration; M&A Integration; Cloud Backup; Cloud DR

BENEFITS

Faster cross-office collaboration; lightweight virtual appliances for remote sites; Revit & AutoCAD compatibility; reduced risk; simpler IT management



Engineering Firm Drives Consolidation, Collaboration & Business Growth with Nasuni®

As Coffman Engineers looked to tap widespread engineering talent for local projects, the firm needed a new kind of file infrastructure

Based in Seattle, WA, Coffman Engineers specializes in structural, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering. Each of its 18 global locations has its own personality and strong local connections, creating a unique business culture. These offices, which stretch from Maryland to Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam, offer local, personalized service to clients. This focus on local relationships is one of the firm's core values, yet Coffman also wants to be able to apply its top talent and engineering acumen to every project — regardless of location.

By 2016, rapidly growing volumes of Revit and AutoCAD files and an increasing need for collaboration between offices were straining the firm's traditional file infrastructure, so Coffman opted to modernize with Nasuni and scalable, cost-effective Azure Blob Storage.

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Switching from traditional NAS to Nasuni generally saves companies 50%. Nasuni helped Coffman cut costs by:

- Shrinking local file storage and back-up infrastructure
- Eliminating Peer-Link & Neverfail
- Reducing bandwidth load

Since the start of the Nasuni relationship, Coffman has expanded its Nasuni platform deployment by 150%.

Nasuni Cloud File Storage

Since the start of the Nasuni relationship, Coffman has expanded its Nasuni platform deployment by 150%. Nasuni Edge Appliances are now deployed at each of its 18 locations, and the firm's file data is stored, protected, managed, and synced between offices using Nasuni cloud file storage. "We have 18 offices and a few other remote locations," says Senior System Administrator Joe Tuxhorn, "and we just keep adding data."

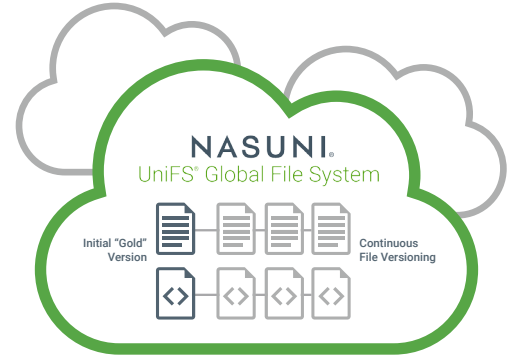
Faster Cross-office Collaboration

The firm relies on Revit and nearly 200 other AEC-specific applications, along with Adobe Creative, Office365, and more. As Coffman grew, and cross-office collaboration needs increased, too much data was moving through its VPN, driving up costs and hampering efficiency.

With Nasuni, new files are available at all locations within ten minutes, and a change to a file in one location appears everywhere within a minute. Nasuni Global File Lock® limits revision and editing conflicts, allowing for truly efficient collaboration without data loss from file overwrites. "The file locking capability was one of the main driving points," Tuxhorn notes.

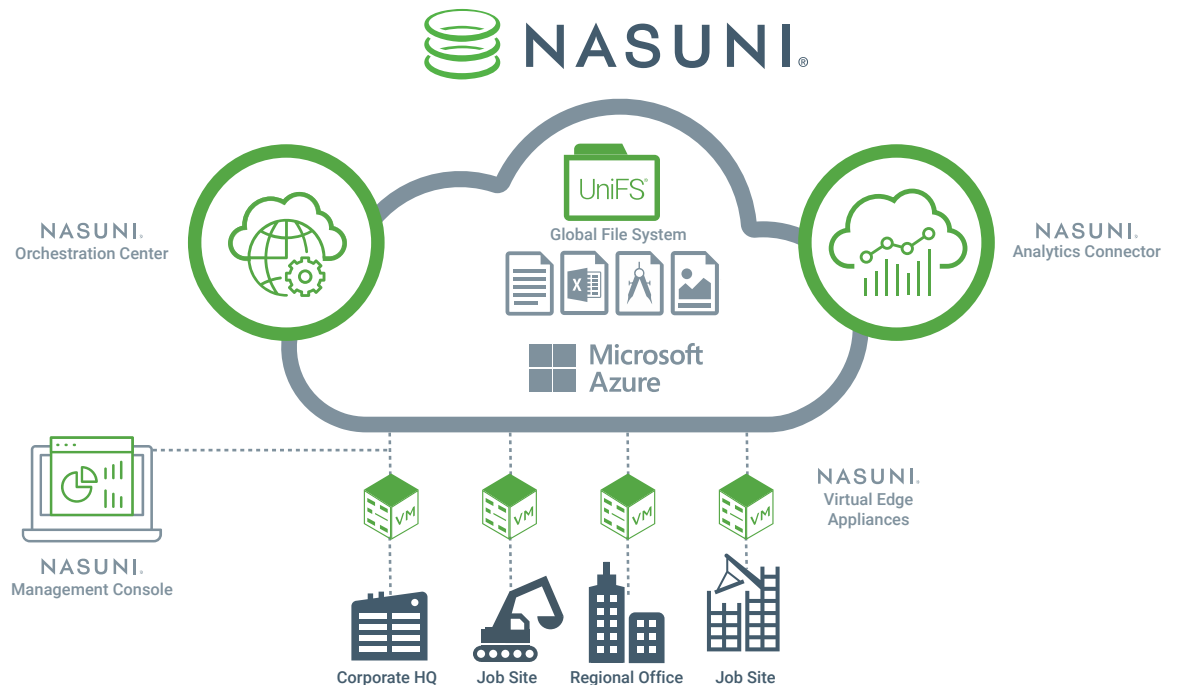
Data Protection Without Backup

Prior to Nasuni, Coffman was backing up within the office, then backing up to another site for disaster recovery (DR). Nasuni Continuous File Versioning® coupled with the solution's efficient use of cloud object storage eliminates the need for additional backup and DR solutions. So, by switching to Nasuni, Coffman improved recovery points and recovery times, while reducing costs and IT workloads.



Resilient Virtual Infrastructure

"Everything we have is virtualized, including our Nasuni deployment," says Tuxhorn. "It makes things go so much easier. We've had a virtual machine stop working, and we can build a new one, connect it to our volume, and have it up and working very quickly."



“I definitely have seen a difference in IT productivity. Our previous solution was a real beast to manage. I was real happy to trade that in for Nasuni.”

—Senior System Administrator Pete Krueger

M&A Integration & New Office Setup

Coffman grows its business through acquisitions, and Nasuni is a huge advantage on this front, according to Senior System Administrator Pete Krueger: “When we merge other companies into the firm, to be able to go to their existing office and just plug in a machine that’s got a virtual edge appliance on it and sync their data and seed it to the cloud, that gives us a head start and makes it easier to get them going as part of Coffman Engineers.”

“It Works as it Says”

For Coffman, Nasuni has proven to be the scalable, cost-effective file storage platform it billed itself to be. “Since these files are our main bread and butter, this solution has to work flawlessly,” says Tuxhorn. “Well, Nasuni works. If you tune it correctly and understand what it’s doing, then it works as it says in their marketing materials, and that’s quite a bit different than a lot of other software packages.”

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About Nasuni

Nasuni is a file storage platform built for the cloud, powered by the world’s only global file system, UniFS®. Nasuni consolidates Network Attached Storage (NAS) and file server silos in cloud storage, delivering infinite scale, built-in backup, global file sharing, and local file server performance, all at half the cost of traditional file infrastructures. The Nasuni software-as-a-service platform is most often used for NAS consolidation; backup and recovery modernization; multi-site file sharing; and rapid, infrastructure-free disaster recovery, while also serving as a foundation for data analytics and multi-cloud IT initiatives.

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