PERDOCEO
EDUCATION CORPORATION™

INDUSTRY:
SLED

CLOUD FILE STORAGE:
Nasuni

CLOUD OBJECT STORAGE:
Azure

USE CASES:
NAS Consolidation; Data Protection

BENEFITS:
$725,000 cost savings over four years; reduced recoveries from days to minutes; provided a more agile, cost-effective file storage platform; accelerated cloud modernization; massively simplified storage and data protection infrastructure

Online Education Leader Saves $725,000 and Simplifies Infrastructure with Nasuni® Cloud File Storage

Perdoceo Education Corporation (Perdoceo) delivers a quality post-secondary education to more than 40,000 students.

The company offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees at several physical campuses and through advanced online portals. With roughly 97% of its students working online, Perdoceo relies heavily on technology, and is closer to an e-commerce company than a traditional university.

File data is growing constantly. Between student assignments, video lectures, audio recordings, custom application data, and various documents, Perdoceo manages billions of files stored in tens of thousands of folders. Previously, this data scaled within traditional NAS arrays. Files were backed up once per day, then copied to tapes and shipped offsite for disaster recovery.

When IT leadership decided the company was paying too much for its backup licenses, especially since it would take at least two days to recover in the event of a disaster, Perdoceo began searching for a more efficient way to store and protect its file data. After evaluating its alternatives, Perdoceo switched to Nasuni. "The four fundamental goals for our technology solutions are simplicity, performance, security and cost savings, and we realized all of these with Nasuni," says Director of IT Infrastructure Services Dalbir Singh of Perdoceo.

+1.857.444.8500
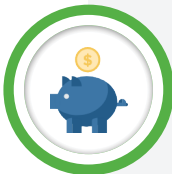nasuni.com | sales@nasuni.com

◇ NASUNI®

Nasuni Cloud File Storage

Simplicity, Speed & Savings

Now that Perdoceo has modernized its infrastructure with Nasuni, all file data scales cost-effectively in Azure Blob Storage, not on local NAS storage devices. Capacity can be expanded cost-effectively on demand, yet the company maintains the fast performance its users expect. Perdoceo currently has 17 Nasuni Edge Appliances deployed on-prem and in the cloud to cache frequently accessed files and maintain fast performance for different users and applications.

Nasuni Continuous File Versioning® and cloud-based disaster recovery ensure fast recoveries in the event of data loss or ransomware attacks, and multiple copies of each file are stored georedundantly in Azure. As Singh notes, the Nasuni platform also delivers on Perdoceo's three core technology goals.

Savings

The primary cost savings from Nasuni stem from trading multiple solutions from different vendors for a single provider. Perdoceo made multiple changes, including:

• Slashing backup licenses

• Eliminating expensive NAS storage devices

• Cutting the associated hardware maintenance fees

• Getting rid of tapes and other DR equipment

Overall, this added up to $725,000 in cost savings over four years.

Simplicity

Prior to Nasuni, Perdoceo relied on multiple NAS, backup, and disaster recovery solutions. "There were lots of different technologies in place, which were very difficult to manage and operate. As an IT group we weren't adding much value by managing all these systems," explains Perdoceo Solutions Architect Steve Stover. By collapsing all these solutions into a single platform, Nasuni saves IT time and effort. "There are cost savings with Nasuni you can't really measure," he adds. "I no longer have to spend time managing our NAS, which frees up time to do my actual job as a solutions architect. That's a cost you can't associate a dollar figure with, but it's making me more efficient."

Speed

Delivering a fast, reliable experience to its online students and their instructors is essential, so Perdoceo would not have been able to tolerate delays in file access or performance. "We have billions of files stored on our Nasuni system," says Singh. "Our applications need to have a certain level of performance for our employees to be productive and we have not seen any issues. Our apps are performing at their best and Nasuni has not disappointed."

Data Protection & Other Benefits

In addition to the core benefits of simplicity, savings, and speed, Nasuni is empowering Perdoceo with additional advantages, including much-improved recoveries.

Enhanced Data Protection

Nasuni maintains a complete, versioned history of every file in cost-effective object storage, and versions files to the cloud on a regular basis. This enables faster, simpler recoveries of everything from individual files to entire volumes. "Nasuni has provided us with a far greater level of data protection," says Singh. "Now we run snapshots every hour, instead of once-a-day backups, so our level of protection has increased 24 fold. If someone asks for a restore, we don't have to wait for the physical media to be delivered to us. We can restore anything from any day in less than five minutes."

Ransomware Recovery

Perdoceo understands that the real issue regarding ransomware readiness is how quickly your organization can recover from an attack. Prior to Nasuni, the company relied on once-per-day backups, so if they had been hit by the malware, the earliest point from which they could restore would have been late afternoon on the previous day. "Now, with Nasuni, if we get hit at noon, we can restore from 11:00am that same day," says Stover. "The level of protection is revolutionary and not something our company has experienced before."

A Truly Scalable File System

The Nasuni global file system, UniFS®, has been proven and tested at scale to manage files of any size, volume, or complexity, and to work for any number of users and locations. Whereas Perdoceo's previous NAS solution struggled to manage the company's billions of files and tens of thousands of folders, UniFS is built for this work.

Faster M&A Integration

After recently acquiring a school in California, Perdoceo plans to use Nasuni to accelerate its integration into the larger company. "We can use a caching appliance at the school's location," says Stover. "That's going to help us considerably with integrating this school into our environment."

Two Minutes Instead of Two Days

As of this writing, Perdoceo has been relying on Nasuni for 18 months, and the platform has delivered as promised. The initial file migration took longer than the company had hoped, but Nasuni has addressed this issue in the interim with the introduction of various file migration acceleration tools and services.

Next up, Perdoceo plans to shut down the remnants of its DR environment and rely entirely on Nasuni's cloud-based DR. This remains one of the more exciting advantages to the IT team. "I really don't think Nasuni understands how beneficial this is to our company," says Stover. "We've reduced our recoveries from two days to two minutes."

About Nasuni

Nasuni provides modern cloud file storage, powered by the world's only cloud-native global file system. Nasuni is a cloud replacement for traditional network attached storage (NAS) and file server silos, consolidating file data in instantly expandable cloud object storage at a fraction of the cost. Nasuni also eliminates the need for complex legacy backup and disaster recovery infrastructure, dramatically simplifying IT administration. Nasuni is headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. For more information, visit www.nasuni.com.

NASUNI