



Military Medical Research Non-Profit Drives Cloud Transition with Nasuni®

The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc. (HJF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, that serves military, medical, academic and government partners around the world through preeminent scientific programs. The research HJF supports benefits not only the armed services, but also the general public.

INDUSTRY:

Professional Services

CLOUD FILE STORAGE:

Nasuni

OBJECT STORAGE:

Azure Government

USE CASES:

NAS Consolidation;
Data Protection

Recently, HJF launched a comprehensive digital transformation that includes a reduction of its legacy, on-prem systems in favor of scalable, efficient cloud services. “HJF has been undergoing a modernization initiative, upgrading the infrastructure behind the entire organization, and Nasuni has been a critical part of that,” says Marc De Serio, Chief Technology Officer at HJF. “Nasuni is helping HJF reduce and simplify on-premises infrastructure, improve manageability, and move from a multiple-data-center methodology to a hybrid cloud approach.”

Nasuni Cloud File Storage

By migrating its file data off local infrastructure and into Nasuni cloud file storage, HJF will leverage the on-demand scale of the cloud without sacrificing fast local access to files. Nasuni caches frequently accessed files on physical or virtual edge appliances, but storage scales in Azure Government, the mission-critical cloud built to exceed requirements for U.S. government data. This was essential for HJF, which must adhere to strict U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) compliance requirements among numerous other regulatory standards.

Global NAS Consolidation

HJF had been relying on an array of technologies from multiple vendors to store its file data, ranging from Linux-based bare metal servers to Windows VMs spread across several hypervisor and storage platforms. “With Nasuni we were able to consolidate all of that onto a single platform,” says HJF Senior Enterprise Architect Tom Sellie. “The simplified architecture provides significant operational improvements.”

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Secure Global Access

By pairing zero trust network access with Nasuni, HJF benefits from fast, convenient, and secure access to data. As long as internet access is available, researchers working globally can access the files they need through Nasuni Edge Appliance VMs deployed within HJF's hybrid cloud.

Hard & Soft Cost Reduction

The switch to Nasuni, and the resulting consolidation, has reduced the number of VMs HJF needs to maintain. This, in turn, cuts down on maintenance windows, patch weekends, and the larger hassle of managing VMs running different technologies. Ultimately, it frees time for HJF's IT team to dedicate hours to more valuable customer facing work, supporting military medical research.

In addition to these soft cost benefits, Nasuni generated hard cost savings as well. "One of our transformation objectives was to reduce the related environmental costs of multiple data centers, and by using Nasuni and the cloud, we're doing just that," notes De Serio. "That will allow us to realize significant savings."

Compatibility

One of the unsung advantages of Nasuni cloud file storage is how it allows organizations to get more out of their existing technology stack. "Nasuni's extensive list of technology partners is a huge benefit as it allows HJF to leverage existing investments in Nutanix, Varonis, and Azure Government," says Sellie.

Reliable Data Protection

Nasuni replaces backup and others forms of data protection with Continuous File Versioning® to the cloud. This leads to vastly improved RPOs and RTOs, and it makes life easier for IT. "The reliability of VM-based file server backups is no longer a concern," says Sellie. "With Nasuni, file backup is set it and forget it. We know that data is always going to be available for immediate restoration."

Disaster Recovery

This unique approach to data protection allows for testable, cloud-based Disaster Recovery (DR). "Nasuni really helps us from a DR perspective," notes Sellie. "If we were to lose one of our offices or data-centers to a disaster, we could easily, in conjunction with our zero-trust network access solution, access Nasuni file servers in the cloud from anywhere in the world. DR testing performed at HJF has shown that access to data can be restored within minutes."

Rapid Ransomware Recovery

Finally, Nasuni gives HJF peace of mind since HJF knows it has a solid ransomware recovery plan in place if it should suffer an attack from malicious malware. Nasuni has deep experience in ransomware recovery and has allowed its customers to recover millions of files within minutes. No Nasuni client has ever paid a ransom to recover its files.

Reducing Time to Value

The partnership between HJF and Nasuni is also helping IT support HJF's ultimate mission – advancing military medicine. In the past, when research programs requested significant storage capacity increases to accommodate new projects, De Serio and his team would need significant lead times to procure the hardware, stand it up, and get it running. "The time to value on these projects has historically been six to eight weeks.," says De Serio. "Now, with Nasuni, we're talking about a matter of minutes to give them the storage they need."

Still, the benefits of Nasuni are about more than satisfying his internal customers. "This is a critical time for our organization, especially given the importance of COVID research," De Serio adds. "The partnership between Nasuni and HJF has been highly successful in supporting our mission, and we look forward to continuing this partnership into the future."



ABOUT NASUNI CORPORATION

Nasuni is the leading hybrid cloud storage solution that powers business growth with effortless scalability, built-in security, and fast edge performance using a unique cloud-native architecture. The Nasuni File Data Platform delivers operational excellence by consolidating NAS and backup, eliminating data silos, and making management easy and flexible without changes to apps or workflows. Its built-in security offers proactive defense and rapid recovery, lowering organization's risk from the detrimental effects of ransomware attacks and other disasters. Synchronized access to file data everywhere ensures user productivity by supporting remote and hybrid work. For more information, visit www.nasuni.com.