Leading restaurant brand migrates off StorSimple into Nasuni®

TGI Fridays is the original casual dining bar and grill. Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, the company serves high-quality, classic American food and iconic drinks through over 700 restaurants in 54 countries.

Maintaining that timeless appeal requires constant innovation, and the IT leadership at TGI Fridays recognized the benefits of cloud file storage earlier than many leading enterprises.

Initially, the company moved its file data to the cloud through a StorSimple gateway device. When TGI Fridays IT learned this device would no longer be supported, they launched a rigorous evaluation of their alternatives. In their search, Infrastructure Team Lead Michael Oehlert and Systems Administrator Victor Martinez of TGI Fridays came across Nasuni. The technical architecture of the Nasuni File Data Platform immediately appealed to the pair, and the fact that several of its industry competitors were already relying on Nasuni was an important validation. Soon, TGI Fridays made the decision to migrate its file data from StorSimple to Nasuni.

Industry
Restaurants

Cloud file storage
Nasuni

Object storage
Microsoft Azure

Use cases
NAS consolidation;
data protection

Benefits
20% cost reduction;
easy StorSimple replacement;
unlimited on-demand storage;
rapid ransomware recovery

Nasuni File Data Platform

Before initiating the migration, TGI Fridays worked with Nasuni's Professional Services team to ensure an optimal cutover. "When you move a large volume of data, it matters who owns what and who has specific rights," explains Oehlert. "There was data that as an administrator I couldn't even move."

This early legwork paid off, as no one within TGI Fridays even noticed the cutover, including the heavy users. "I actually got an award," Oehlert says, "because everyone was convinced it was going to be a nightmare, and no one even knew it happened. My bosses were asking when it was going to happen, and I replied, 'We already did it. The job's done.'"

Now that TGI Fridays has upgraded to the Nasuni File Data Platform backed by Azure Blob storage, the company enjoys numerous short- and long-term benefits.

Unlimited, on-demand storage

The first is scale. Thanks to Nasuni, TGI Fridays file data can expand its cloud storage footprint on-demand, in an incremental fashion, growing in line with its needs.

Azure cost reduction

TGI Fridays projects to save 20% in Azure storage costs by moving to Nasuni. The StorSimple device had large amounts of data reserved, which drove up total storage in Azure. Nasuni reduces this overall capacity thanks in part to compression and deduplication, leading to the 20% reduction in cloud costs.

Fast local file access

Although file data scales in the cloud, Nasuni caches frequently accessed files at the edge for fast performance, ensuring that users can work at local speeds. "We were concerned about performance initially, but we have had no complaints at all," Oehlert adds. "As far as I've heard from our users, it's the same story as the migration. No one noticed a difference."

Rapid Ransomware Recovery

TGI Fridays is a very security conscious organization, according to Oehlert. Yet, as he points out, all it takes is one person making one little mistake for malware to slip past even the best defenses. Nasuni gives the company unparalleled protection and peace of mind. "The number one advantage of the Nasuni platform for me was the ransomware recovery," Oehlert says. "The Nasuni approach is very efficient. We can go into the file directories, step back in time and recover individual files or entire volumes. I can recover from a ransomware event in a matter of hours, or probably less."

Powerful management

Martinez cites the Nasuni Management Console (NMC) as another strength of the platform, as it gives IT more control and visibility. "I appreciated how we could monitor the synchronization during the migration," Martinez notes. "A lot of times, with other solutions, you pull a switch and then pray and wait. With the NMC, we were able to watch the files move across and know that everything was happening as it was supposed to happen."

❞❞

A lot of times, **with other solutions**, you pull a switch and then pray and wait.

Victor Martinez, TGI Fridays Systems Administrator

Nasuni & TGI Fridays

Martinez and Oehlert both cite the Nasuni Professional Services and Customer Success teams as critical factors in the successful deployment of the platform. "You can sell the capabilities and cost savings, but in terms of how to make the changes and actually run the platform, IT teams might be out of their element," says Oehlert. "The Nasuni team was instrumental in terms of getting this done without anyone noticing. They always knew what was going on and how to make it work."

The combination of good people, a powerful platform, compelling cost savings, and transformative ransomware recovery capabilities has made Nasuni an essential part of IT infrastructure at TGI Fridays. "Based on the performance and ransomware recovery alone," concludes Oehlert, "Nasuni is absolutely part of our long-term planning."

Nasuni is a fluid data platform for enterprises facing an explosion of unstructured data in an AI world, eliminating the choice between expensive tinkering or an overwhelming transformation of your entire data infrastructure.

The Nasuni File Data Platform delivers effortless scale in hybrid cloud environments, enables control at the network edge, and meets the modern enterprise expectation for protected, insight- and AI-ready data. It simplifies file data management while increasing access and performance.

Consolidate data, cut costs, and empower users — all while transforming your data from obstacle into opportunity.