



### INDUSTRY:

Architecture, Engineering,  
Construction

### CLOUD FILE STORAGE:

Nasuni

### OBJECT STORAGE:

Azure Blob Storage

### USE CASES:

NAS & File Server Silo  
Consolidation; File Backup  
& Recovery; Cloud  
Modernization

### BENEFITS:

Unlimited on-demand  
cloud file storage capacity;  
67% cost savings over  
5 years; global file data  
protection without backup;  
faster file recoveries;  
fast access to a shared  
dataset in the cloud;  
simpler IT management

## SMEC Eliminates Backup and Consolidates File Server Silos with Nasuni Cloud File Storage

The Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (SMEC) provides engineering consultancy services for infrastructure and transportation projects, including highways, roads, rail, and urban environments. SMEC played a significant role in shaping the modern Australia and will continue to do so, having recently undertaken a massive project to drive the country's transition to renewables.

The company has 18 regional offices across Australia and New Zealand, and its staff has quintupled in size since 2008. As its business was growing, SMEC's file data was expanding even faster. The company's file infrastructure consisted of isolated, physical file servers in each office. This approach was effective for local users, but whenever colleagues in different regional offices needed access to data stored in a given location, the process was slow and painful.

As a workaround, employees were copying entire project folders onto their local servers, leading to duplication that further strained storage capacity. Data protection was not any easier, as the company's tape-based backup solution was time-consuming to manage and couldn't keep pace with file growth.

SMEC's Divisional Manager of IT Simon Hoby and his team wanted a modern cloud solution that would eliminate these headaches and support the company's future growth. "We heard about Nasuni through word of mouth, started doing our own research, and found a number of industry recommendations," explains Hoby. "After we looked into the technical background, we realized we needed Nasuni to stay competitive, modernize our file infrastructure, and help keep our staff operating successfully."



## Nasuni Cloud File Storage

By switching to Nasuni, SMEC traded isolated file server silos in each office for a single global file system in the cloud. At each site, lightweight Nasuni Edge Appliances cache frequently accessed files and folders for fast access. Meanwhile, the gold copy of each file is stored, protected, and updated in cost-effective Azure Blob Storage, giving SMEC a single source of truth in the cloud.

## Unlimited On-demand Capacity

Since storage scales in the cloud, not on local hardware, SMEC can expand its capacity on-demand according to the needs of its business. "As we keep storing more and more data, with mapping files and modeling data that can be hundreds of GBs or even several TBs, Nasuni ensures that we don't need to worry about purchasing on-site storage," Hoby notes. "The cloud gives us flexibility and allows us to grow our capacity dynamically without additional hardware leasings or on-site purchases."

## Major Cost Savings

By moving its file data to cost-effective Azure Blob Storage, eliminating file backup, and streamlining its file infrastructure, SMEC stands to save 67% over five years, relative to traditional file storage and data protection.

## The Best Backup is No Backup

Before Nasuni, SMEC tried a cloud backup solution, and while it was preferable to tapes, it still didn't offer the unified, centralized data protection and fast recoveries the company wanted. By continuously versioning files to the cloud, Nasuni eliminates the need for separate backup. "With Nasuni we have all of our data consolidated into a single data store in one cloud location," notes Hoby. "Our IT staff no longer have to worry about backups or changing tapes. All that data now lives in the cloud."

SMEC has minimized downtime from data loss and disasters at all of its locations—an advantage the company realized early in its deployment.

## Disaster? What Disaster?

When one of SMEC's regional offices experienced a sequence of power outages in the middle of the night, Hoby and his team found that the company's file infrastructure was damaged. Previously, this would have resulted in days of downtime. Now all they had to do with Nasuni, was direct the local staff to work from home and access their files through an appliance in another office. "They continued to operate with absolutely no downtime at all," Hoby says. "In the end, there was no disaster. We didn't lose any data and nobody lost any time."

## COVID and WFH

When the pandemic struck, SMEC had to shift 1,700 staffers to a work-from-home environment. The firm set up VPNs to connect to the Nasuni appliance in each office, and if one of those VPNs wasn't working properly, users were able to connect to another. Their data no longer resided in one physical location. With Nasuni, the gold copy of each file lives in the cloud, so they had 18 different options they could pick from to access their files in real time.

Nasuni gives the company more long-term options as well. "There may be some staff who elect to work from home for one or two days a week in the future," Hoby says. "With Nasuni, we now have the flexibility to offer that."

## Flexible, Agile Growth

As a large and growing company, SMEC needs to be able to quickly set up offices in new locations or bring newly acquired companies into the fold. With Nasuni, IT can quickly deploy the necessary file infrastructure and connect a site to the global file system. "Nasuni gives us the flexibility to expand to new locations without any additional hardware cost to the business," says Hoby. "It's very, very easy to set up the system and give the local users access to the dataset."

“ The Nasuni technical support team have been truly outstanding. Whenever we have an issue, and there are very, very few issues, we've been able to get a consultant on the line and resolve the issue on the first phone call or the first email. Even if something requires a higher level of technical support, it's very quickly addressed and very quickly resolved. ”

## The Years Ahead

In addition to the features of the Nasuni platform itself, and its impact on IT and the business as whole, Hoby cites the responsiveness and knowledge of Nasuni's technical support team as a major benefit. Overall, he sees Nasuni – the company and the platform – as a critical IT partner for SMEC. "Nasuni is providing us with the cloud modernization we need to protect our data, and it gives us the flexibility and agility to help us continue growing our business. We feel very confident that we will be working with Nasuni for years," concludes Hoby. "I would highly recommend this system to other engineering firms and global consultation services."

## 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. Companies and organizations worldwide rely on Nasuni to easily access and share files globally from the office, home or on the road. Sectors served by Nasuni include manufacturing, construction, creative services, technology, pharmaceuticals, consumer goods, oil and gas, financial services, and public sector agencies. Nasuni's corporate headquarters is based in Boston, Massachusetts, USA delivering services in over 70 countries around the globe. For more information, visit [www.nasuni.com](http://www.nasuni.com).



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