Solution at a Glance

Nasuni and Azure for Manufacturing

Highlights

Optimize design and production workflows with global file access & sharing across all locations

Support your product lifecycles with a global file sharing platform that connects all your teams

Ensure business continuity with access to files even if a file server or site goes down.

Strengthen data protection with more secure file transfers.

Leverage a cloud-first architecture to increase agility and resilience

Archive design and production files at low-cost but have them quickly accessible if needed

Reduce CAPEX and operate with more predictable costs

The Challenge: Manufacturing Design Workflows Now Exceed Traditional File System Capabilities

The world of stand-alone manufacturing plants is long gone. Today, design, simulation and testing often happen in one set of locations, while production and assembly happen half a world away. Large and small manufacturers alike need to support complex workflows that require distributed teams to share and collaborate on projects across multiple sites.

At the same time, all phases of the product lifecycle are undergoing digital transformation. From product lifecycle applications (PLM) such as Siemens Teamcenter to CAD/CAE applications and 3D modeling applications such as SOLIDWORKS and AutoCAD, to IoT connected machines on the factory floor, advanced technologies generate large quantities of unstructured data that must be stored, accessed, shared and archived.

Traditional file storage architectures cannot support this new digital reality. Legacy file systems are not designed to handle huge quantities of unstructured data and multiple locations. Older, disk array-based architectures don't support the need for secure, long-distance collaboration on large files. And, on-site backup solutions are being taxed by explosive unstructured data growth.

The Solution: Azure and Nasuni for Scalable File Storage and Collaboration

Manufacturers that need to share large files across multiple locations are beginning to realize the cloud is the answer to improved design efficiency, greater productivity, and lower costs. And that Azure and Nasuni are the ideal solution.

Case in point: a leading manufacturer that produces components for products as diverse as cars, medical devices, washing machines, and ATMs realized its facilities needed to be more flexible and technologically advanced. Storing, sharing, and protecting its most critical digital assets – its file data - is critical. This Fortune 500 company deployed Nasuni and Microsoft Azure Blob storage across 26 global locations to facilitate the sharing of CAD files between its many global design centers and manufacturing sites and provide more reliable file backup and recovery. By embracing the cloud for scalable file services, this industry leader is driving the innovation, engineering excellence, and agility it needs to stay competitive across many markets.

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"We are at our most efficient when our manufacturing facilities are running. Any downtime costs us money. Nasuni and Azure have increased productivity across the company by dramatically improving file access across our many remote offices."

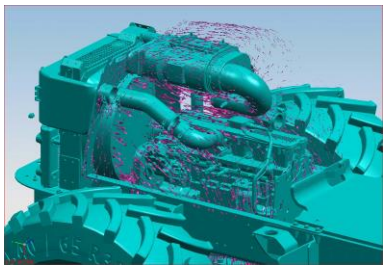
Sandy Bodell
Vice President of Information Technology, Cooley Group
(manufacturer of high performance industrial fabrics)

Cooley Group case study

"We've replaced our entire file storage infrastructure with Nasuni and Azure for about the same cost as we were paying just for backup before."

James Green
Director of IT, SAS International
UK-based designer and manufacturer of high-end metalwork

SAS case study



A Best of Both Worlds Approach

Nasuni® is the new enterprise file services platform designed for the modern cloud era. Its hybrid cloud architecture is ideally suited for the digital design and production workflows required in modern manufacturing.

The Nasuni UniFS® global file system lives in Azure Blob storage but extends out to the edge using virtual or physical caching appliances that store only frequently used data. Any number of edge appliances can be deployed in any number of locations for limitless file sharing.

This unique "cloud-first" architecture offers the best of both worlds: the virtually infinite scalability of the cloud and the flexibility, performance, and compatibility of on-premises file servers. Together, Nasuni and Azure offer:

- Unified file storage, archival storage, data protection, and management across all design centers and remote sites.
- Unlimited capacity and secure file storage for unstructured data of all types and file sizes.
- Global access to a single unified file system from any location, leveraging the cloud for cost-effective, efficient large file transfer.
- Scalable file infrastructure for PLM, CAD/CAM/CAE, and test apps that facilitates global collaboration and accelerates time-to-market.
- Global File Lock™ to minimize the threat of data loss due to version conflicts across different design centers.
- Continuous File Versioning™ to provide an infinite history of all files and file versions for easy self-service or IT-assisted recovery.
- Up to 60% cost savings compared to the cost of NAS, backup, DR, replication, WAN optimization, and other legacy tools traditionally needed for enterprise file services.

Learn why Nasuni was named Azure Global ISV of the Year and why so many manufacturers are modernizing their global file infrastructures with Nasuni and Azure. Talk to an Azure cloud specialist or schedule a deep dive briefing at a Microsoft Technology Center (MTC) near you.

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