Nasuni for Amazon WorkSpaces

Higher performance file storage for multiple regions at a fraction of the cost

Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) is experiencing rapid growth as enterprises adopt work-from-anywhere models that can sustain and optimize business operations through difficult periods. Cloud VDI in particular has experienced rapid growth as it is proving to be an easy, economical way to scale VDI across regions and support large numbers of end-users working from home. One challenge to Cloud VDI performance can be access to file storage. Traditionally, this has been tied to on-premises file storage hardware. Network Attached Storage (NAS) and file server infrastructures, however, only work well in one location and are cumbersome solutions for the cloud. If a company's files remain anchored to traditional storage infrastructure, performance for end users suffers.

The solution is a file services platform that is based in the cloud. Nasuni can be co-located with performance-enhancing Amazon WorkSpaces to deliver economical and high performance file access. Nasuni provides cloud file storage for WorkSpaces, making an ideal solution for mitigating latency, while delivering affordable cloud infrastructure.

Consolidation of file data and profiles in cloud storage with fast, regional VDI access using lightweight Edge Appliances

Multi-region VDI file sharing with high-speed, multi-site file synchronization and Global File Lock®

Object storage durability, scalability, and economics using AWS cloud storage

**Built-in backup with better RPO/RTO** with Continuous File Versioning® to cloud storage

On-demand provisioning so virtual desktops never run out of capacity for group shares or home directories

Nasuni cloud file storage for Amazon WorkSpaces

As a modern file services platform built for AWS, Nasuni® enables enterprises to deploy virtual desktops with limitless file storage that can span any number of VDI regions. Combined with AWS S3 object storage, Nasuni provides VDI file storage that costs up to 50% less, and offers greater scalability, higher performance, and more flexibility than hardware-centric file services built on traditional NAS file server, backup, replication, and disaster recovery technologies.

> We use Nasuni to consolidate our file services on AWS S3. We especially like the fact that under this platform, Nasuni dramatically reduces risk so that business continuity is maximized. Our engineers no longer suffer from failing hardware.
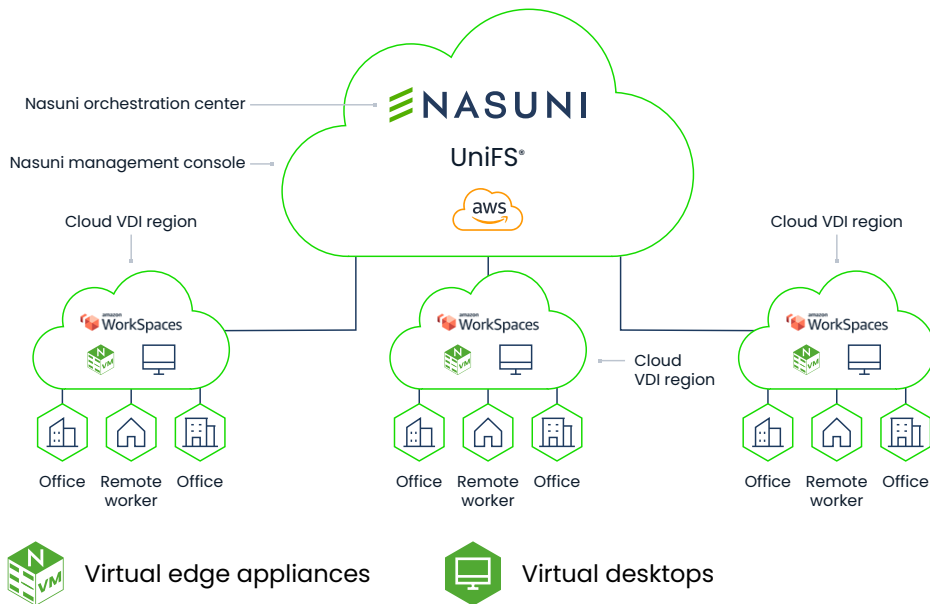
Use case #1: global NAS and file server consolidation

Nasuni consolidates all file data in scalable, secure Amazon S3. In each Amazon WorkSpaces region, small-footprint virtual machines — Nasuni Edge Appliances — cache files as needed to ensure that data is quickly accessible to the virtual desktops. Since the WorkSpaces are close to the files, end-users enjoy LAN-speed performance.

Use case #2: global file sharing and collaboration

Once file data is consolidated in the cloud, Nasuni Global File Manager ensures organizations can share the same files across multiple VDI regions by keeping everything synchronized. This allows for true distributed team collaboration and boosts the productivity of workers, as end-users in different locations are no longer saddled with long delays and frustrating file transfers. In addition, patented Nasuni Global File Lock technology ensures that two people (even in different countries) cannot edit a file at the same time, eliminating version conflicts.

Improved, automatic data protection

In either use case, Nasuni frees IT to focus on higher-value work through automated, built-in 'snapshots' taken at predetermined intervals. This Continuous File Versioning model of data protection enables files to be restored to virtually any point in time. Traditional backup software, media servers, tapes, and archival storage, along with their high costs, are a thing of the past. Recovery Point Objectives (RPO)s are reduced to minutes, and Recovery Time Objectives (RTO)s are reduced to seconds.

Powerful business continuity tools

The virtualization of the entire platform in the cloud, from desktops through file storage and data protection, streamlines business continuity and supports work-from-anywhere models. Amazon WorkSpaces is no longer vulnerable to losing a single file server in a specific region. Nor does IT need to replicate file systems across regions to ensure redundancy.

Turning on a new office region is greatly simplified, allowing enterprises to offer continued global file access to all end-users in any type of business threat, from a local weather disruption to multi-location work-from-home mandate.

Reduce total cost of ownership of file storage for Amazon WorkSpaces

The cost-saving benefits of using Nasuni for Amazon WorkSpaces are just as important as the technical advantages:

Leverage cloud: With Nasuni, file data scales in limitless, low-cost cloud object storage, not in expensive, hardware-constrained block storage.

Shrink infrastructure: Full-sized NAS, file servers, or VM disk storage at each site are unnecessary. File storage footprint in each VDI region can be reduced by 85-95%.

Eliminate backup: Nasuni Continuous File Versioning eliminates the need for expensive third-party backup software, media servers, and backup storage.

Simplify IT: The Nasuni Management Console™ greatly reduces IT operational costs, as shares, volumes, and more can be centrally created, monitored, and managed.

Minimize downtime: Nasuni slashes RTOs from days to minutes and mitigates the impact of everything from ransomware attacks to accidentally deleted files.

Summary

When deploying Amazon WorkSpaces, it is essential to have cloud file storage that can span locations. Nasuni consolidates NAS and file server silos into the cloud while keeping VDI profiles and file shares local, no matter how many VDI regions, pods, or sites are needed. Nasuni's multi-site file synchronization also enables the same files to be shared across all VDI sites, to boost distributed team collaboration and workforce productivity even during global disruptions. And Nasuni — with AWS object storage — will deliver a lower Total Cost of Ownership than any other alternative.