



Greene County Eases Cloud Transition & Simplifies Infrastructure with Nasuni®

The IT leaders for the State of Ohio's Greene County were preparing for an upcoming NAS storage renewal when they decided it was finally time for a change. Traditionally, they would buy hardware for the county's locations on five-year deals. That model worked a few decades ago, but today technology is changing too quickly. Greene County Network Operations Manager Ryan Lloyd and his team had been considering shifting to cloud applications across the board, and while the idea of moving critical file workloads to the cloud was slightly nerve wracking, the upside was too appealing to ignore.

INDUSTRY:

State & Local Government

CLOUD FILE STORAGE:

Nasuni

OBJECT STORAGE:

AWS S3

USE CASES:

NAS Consolidation;
Data Protection

BENEFITS:

Infrastructure Reduction;
Simplicity and Ease of Use;
Painless Migration; Automatic
File Data Protection

"We started to look at what would really make sense in terms of how we spent our money," Lloyd explains. "Nasuni came up as a possibility, and we realized it made sense in terms of the technology, the budgetary flexibility, and the comfort in knowing we wouldn't have to worry about disaster recovery anymore."

Migrating to Nasuni and AWS

The IT team evaluated multiple options, including file services solutions offered by the leading cloud providers, before deciding Nasuni was indeed the optimal fit. Given that this was the organization's first cloud app, and that Nasuni was going to manage all user and departmental files, Greene County Network Administrator Ben Roberts worked with the Nasuni Customer Success team to plan the migration, ensure he was making all the right architectural decisions, and minimize the impact on the county's 800+ users.

"The migration was very smooth," recalls Lloyd. "This was literally our first cloud move, so there was some hesitation and stress, but it went great. We're very happy. Honestly, our end users don't know the difference."

The IT organization, on the other hand, is seeing a powerful difference in how the county stores, protects, manages and provides access to files.

Infrastructure Reduction

Nasuni caches frequently accessed files locally, but capacity scales in AWS S3 cloud object storage, which drastically reduces the need for local hardware. When the county does have to renew its hardware, they will be able to deploy much smaller and less expensive arrays. The county has also demonstrated that it can shut down one of its three data centers, and might be able to move out of a second one as well.

Simplicity and Ease-of-Use

Lloyd and his IT team laud the simplicity of the Nasuni Management Console and the platform as a whole. “You don’t need in-depth training or a degree to do IT functions that weren’t so straightforward before,” Lloyd explains. “Nasuni is simple and easy to use.”

Focusing on What Matters

The switch to Nasuni means the IT team no longer needs to manage backup. File restores are fast and easy. The team has more time to devote to serving the direct needs of end users in different departments, such as the offices of the sheriff or treasurer. “With Nasuni, our staff can focus on the IT tasks the user really sees and that actually matter for the job,” Lloyd says.

Hands-Off Maintenance

Roberts notes that one of his favorite parts of Nasuni is that the team rarely has to maintain the platform. The updates are easy and non-disruptive, and Nasuni takes pressure off the staff, since there’s one less solution they have to worry about. “It’s just easy,” Lloyd adds. “It very much reminds me of when VMware came on the horizon. It’s easy and it just works.”

Automatic Data Protection

The county did have a backup and DR strategy in place prior to Nasuni, but Lloyd suspects the recovery would have been long and painful if a true disaster had struck. Now, the IT team rests easy knowing that Nasuni continuously versions all files to cloud object storage, allowing for fast file restores and rapid disaster recovery, including from ransomware attacks.

Rapid Ransomware Recovery

Every organization today is vulnerable to a ransomware attack, and state and local governments are frequent targets. With Nasuni, Greene County has a reliable, testable ransomware recovery solution that can restore millions of files within minutes.

What Are You Waiting For?

The Greene County IT team sees Nasuni as a foundational piece of what will become a larger portfolio of cloud services and apps. Lloyd likes the flexibility of the platform design, and the idea that the county could eventually add new services, such as Nasuni Access Anywhere, as the need arises. Ultimately, though, he points to Nasuni’s core function as the differentiator.

“Nasuni does a very good job as a NAS file server replacement. It solved our problem. It’s economical and fits in our budget,”

Lloyd says. “I have a counterpart working for another county who deployed Nasuni. He doesn’t have his departmental user files on the platform, though, and I always ask him, ‘Why not? What are you waiting for?’”



ABOUT NASUNI CORPORATION

Nasuni is a leading file data services company that helps organizations create a secure, file data cloud for digital transformation, global growth, and information insight. The Nasuni File Data Platform is a cloud-native suite of services offering user productivity, business continuity, data intelligence, cloud choice, and simplified global infrastructure. The platform and its add-on services replace traditional file infrastructure, including Network-Attached Storage (NAS), back-up, and DR, with a cloud-scale solution. By consolidating file data in easily expandable cloud object storage from Azure, AWS, Google Cloud, and others, Nasuni becomes the cloud-native replacement for traditional NAS and file server infrastructure. For more information, visit www.nasuni.com.