Case Study: Cloudar

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– Tom De Blende, Cloud Architect at Cloudar

aws partner network

Advanced

Technology Partner

Storage Competency

Marketplace Seller

Cloudar leverages N2WS to simplify and automate backup for hundreds of EC2 instances across many AWS accounts.

About Cloudar

Cloudar was built from the ground up around cloud architecture and offers solid cloud solutions for any type of business. The company designs, builds, and operates AWS environments that are both high in scale and availability demands. The company targets customers that require their expertise in the implementation of cloud solutions. Cloudar offers AWS consultancy and managed services, they also act as a cloud reseller.

The Challenge

"Backup is one of the most important services one can offer in a managed services model", says Tom De Blende, Cloud Architect at Cloudar. "It can be critical to the survival of a company. As a service provider you cannot be placed in a situation where you are unable to provide a customer with a restore."

"Additionally, companies don't want to invest too much time and resources in managing this service." De Blende says "The biggest challenge Cloudar encountered in managing cloud backup and disaster recovery was the 3 or 4 different ways to backup systems: using open source software on EC2 instance, using Ansible, or using Labmda."

Companies don't want to manage all these different backup systems and keep them up to date. They want a centralized solution with reporting, alerting, and audit trails in place as well as properly implemented features like advanced retention policies.

The Cloudar process

The company manages over 200 AWS accounts. They offer full managed services for many hundreds of instances.

Before using Cloud Protection Manager (CPM) cloudar relied on different open source solutions to automate backups, including Ansible and Lambda. After evaluating other offerings, Cloudar decided CPM was the best fit for their needs.

Cloudar is now able to manage all their customers by leveraging these CPM capabilities:

Scheduled backup of EC2 instances

Automated backup policies using tagging and CLI

Support for multi-tenancy with self-service options

Customers are now also able to utilize self-service options to access the CPM console and perform file restores on their own. With CPM in place Cloudar looks forward to implementing more CPM capabilities such as cross-region disaster recovery.

De Blende lists 4 primary benefits realized by using CPM:

1. Centralized management for many AWS accounts
2. SNS alerting
3. Advanced retention policies
4. Consistent backups using pre- and post-scripts and VSS

Paramount to implementing CPM was the ability to realize a robust and flexible backup solution as well as time savings and efficiency. Ease-of-management and ease-of-mind was the reason Cloudar chose CPM over other backup solutions. "It allows the company to focus on its business." De Blende comments.

Previous backup solutions compared to Cloud Protection Manager

While providing significant value in other areas, the various solutions cloudar used previously lacked proper retention support and needed to be reworked for version upgrades. Previous solutions did not provide the full set of capabilities cloudar required.

	Open Source	Ansible	Amazon Lambda	CPM
Retention support	Basic	✔	Lacking advanced policies	Advanced retention policies
Seamless upgrades	✔	✔	N/A	✔
Time invested / manual scripting	Manual scripting (error prone)	Compatibility issues between versions	Manual scripting (error prone)	Almost no time
Application consistent backup	✘	✘	✘	✔

About N2WS

N2W Software was founded in 2012 with the mission of providing enterprise-class data protection for production environments deployed in the public cloud. Cloud Protection Manager (CPM) from N2W Software was designed and built from the ground up to meet the backup and DR requirements of the most demanding customers migrating to the public cloud. CPM is now the leading enterprise-class backup, recovery, and disaster recovery solution specifically optimized for Amazon's AWS EC2 infrastructure.