Solution Profile

2024-25 DCIG TOP 5

RISING VENDORS MULTI-SITE FILE COLLABORATION SOLUTIONS

Resilio Connect Solution Profile

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Rising Vendors Multi-site File Collaboration Solutions–Resilio Connect Solution Profile

SOLUTION

Resilio Connect

COMPANY

Resilio
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DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF RESILIO

- Synchronization without limits
- Centralized synchronization management
- Fast WAN optimization

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF TOP 5 SOLUTIONS

- Multi-cloud support
- S3 support
- Concurrent protocol access
- Wide use case support

SOLUTION FEATURES EVALUATED

- *Deployment capabilities*
- *Data protection capabilities*
- *Product and performance management features*
- *File collaboration capabilities*
- *Technical support*
- *Licensing and pricing*

File Collaboration Challenges for Distributed Workforces

Many organizations rely on effective file-based collaboration for core business processes. This worked well when employees sat in offices with fast links to file servers or network-attached storage (NAS). However, today's modern workforce now spans the globe.

Consider that before the pandemic, an estimated 5.7% of working Americans worked remotely at home. That percentage grew by nearly 18% in two years.[1] This excludes the 28% of hybrid employees working from home or office[2] as well as remote workers located around the world.

All this to say, is that today's modern workforce spreads between office, home, mobile, and abroad. And when this dispersed workforce needs to work collaboratively on files using legacy systems, the result is frustration, lost time, lost money, and organizational risk. Given the competitive pressures any organization faces, implementing solutions that speed collaborative digital production brings multiple benefits.

The challenges around effective file collaboration using legacy systems include:

Limited scalability. Legacy systems usually lack scalability for file collaboration. As remote teams grow, on-premises file systems may struggle to meet the increased demand for remote file sharing and collaboration.

Version control. When a distributed organization lacks an effective file collaboration solution, troubles occur. An employee realizes they are working on the wrong version of a file. Or worse, they discover this after they have sent an incorrect version to a client. Team members lose time when they must compare versions to find and understand differences between two possible documents. Then, users must spend cycles to resolve and merge different versions into the correct one.

Unmanageable file data growth. Information Technology departments face a continuous increase in the amount of unstructured data, which includes collaborative files. End-users and IT staff members often hesitate to delete files because they fear accidentally deleting something important or necessary. These dynamics contribute to file clutter and dramatically increase storage volumes. And since organizations must protect the data they store, backup and archive storage grow alongside their active file storage.

Sharing files and folders. Sharing files and folders for collaborative work brings its own concerns. Legacy systems frequently depend on on-premises file storage, making file access challenging for remote workers. Sending files through email presents security risks, delivery failures, and out-of-date files floating around. If a team uses email to send documents, they must spend time messaging, making changes, then emailing files back. Enterprises can create VPNs or other shares for outside partners; however, this frequently involves manual activity and possible mistakes.

Data security and control. Traditional file-sharing approaches often lack security and compliance features. This lack can be a significant concern when collaboration involves sensitive information. Employee negligence, poor security, or compromised end points and storage media can result in data breaches. A single breach or attack can devastate a business and its reputation. Thus, the IT department needs better monitoring, control and visibility into the file data than is provided by many legacy systems.

Handling large files. Whereas a traditional local NAS infrastructure may handle large files with ease, this becomes problematic when sharing large files across the wide area network (WAN). File-sharing can become slow or even impossible when distributed teams are involved. And end-users must completely rule out emailing large files for collaborative work. These challenges slow or even stop workflows necessary for digital production teams.

Sources referenced January 2024

1. https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2023-05-18/how-the-covid-pandemic-impacted-working-from-home
2. https://www.forbes.com/advisor/business/remote-work-statistics/

Rising Vendors Multi-site File Collaboration Solutions–Resilio Connect Solution Profile

Many SDS-based file-storage solutions include features that enhance multi-site file collaboration and bring multiple benefits.

Latency. Centralizing file storage, whether on-premises or in the cloud, opens possibilities for multi-site file collaboration but also obstacles. WAN transfer speeds, mobile access, and competition with other applications over the WAN link can result in latency problems that make collaborative work tedious and time-consuming. For files hosted on-premises, a slow user experience is typical for anyone except those local to the hosted files.

Frustrations, costs, and risks. Organizations lose time and money because of the problems above. Additionally, legacy approaches do not provide opportunities for enterprise-wide automation for efficiency benefits. These issues lower productivity, increase costs, and elevate risks to data security, revenue, and brand reputation.

SDS-based File Collaboration Benefits

Along with the change to a distributed workforce, organizations are integrating software-defined storage (SDS) solutions into their storage infrastructure for the increased flexibility, agility, and capabilities these software products offer. Many SDS-based file-storage solutions include features that enhance multi-site file collaboration and bring multiple benefits.

Scalability. As an organization grows over time, these file storage solutions allow IT departments to easily accommodate adding users, capacity, and collaboration services. The best software products provide consistent performance while scaling.

Version control. As a notable feature, these solutions help manage, track, and retain changes to files over time. Users can roll back to an earlier file version when mistakes are made or when an earlier version of the file is preferred. These solutions often provide audit trails that present all interactions with a file for compliance and security.

Modern file collaboration. These software products support file and folder sharing with internal and external stakeholders outside the organization. The degree of access can be customized based on need. Changes to collaborators' files are automatically updated to the authoritative source wherever located. To speed synchronization, only the portions of a file that have changed are transmitted across the network. One common feature of these solutions is their ability to handle large files smoothly.

Reduced storage capacity. By centralizing shared files and implementing effective version controls, companies realize savings on file storage. Many offerings also utilize compression and deduplication for more efficient storage and reduced data transmission. Thus, organizations save file storage costs and reduce WAN bandwidth needs.

Public cloud integration. SDS solutions commonly integrate with public cloud services. This opens opportunities for public cloud or hybrid-cloud deployments. Organizations can leverage public cloud storage for archiving, backup, or hosting its files for collaboration. Plus, public cloud providers offer a number of features for securing and protecting data from cyberattacks and unforeseen events.

Data protection, security, and control. With these products, IT administrators can holistically manage shared file data. IT departments experience control through their ability to assign file permission attributes at a granular level. And organizations can leverage data security features to protect their data from unauthorized access.

Fast file access. Frequently, these software products integrate technologies that provide fast access to active files for distributed teams and remote end users. For example, while the authoritative file may be stored in a private or public cloud, active data is cached locally for each office or end user. This speeds up performance and overcomes WAN latency issues when users or applications access data. File changes are updated on the back end and invisible to the end-user. As a result, all users have a near-immediate view of file updates, contributing to a positive end-user experience.

Rising Vendors Multi-site File Collaboration Solutions–Resilio Connect Solution Profile

DCIG TOP 5 solutions evidence rich support for multi-cloud deployments and storage.

Automation. These file collaboration solutions provide automation features that save time and speed digital production. Many solutions support APIs that allow organizations to integrate file workflows with other software applications. Organizations can automate and orchestrate complex collaborative processes that otherwise would be error-prone manual endeavors. Automation saves organizations time and money and increases revenues by speeding up workflows.

In summary, these solutions speed file collaboration, improve end-user experiences, strengthen security, and reduce organizational storage needs. Ultimately, capabilities like these are essential for increasing the quality and speed at which organizations can produce digital assets for their internal and external stakeholders.

Distinguishing Features of DCIG TOP 5 Rising Vendors Multi-site File Collaboration Solutions

The *2024-25 DCIG TOP 5 Rising Vendors Multi-site File Collaboration Solutions* report is an outcome of DCIG's research into the marketplace for software-defined storage (SDS) for file storage. Most solutions DCIG evaluated in this body of research reflect characteristic properties of SDS solutions. A deeper dive shows that a few reflect some, but not all, characteristics of SDS. These few offer excellent file collaboration capabilities. In total, DCIG evaluated 18 solutions that met DCIG's definition of a Rising Vendor and characterized as file collaboration solutions or software-defined storage solutions for file storage protocols.

Using feature-based analysis and comparisons of data derived from publicly available sources, vendors, and DCIG's own experience, the solutions featured in the *2024-25 DCIG TOP 5 Rising Vendors Multi-site File Collaboration Solutions* report share these characteristics that distinguish them from the other solutions DCIG evaluated.

Multi-cloud support. DCIG TOP 5 solutions evidence rich support for multi-cloud deployments and storage. Each of the major cloud providers, such as Amazon, Azure, IBM, and Google, is supported both for deployment as a VM and as a target for storage. Such broad support offers flexibility in matching a cloud provider's capabilities with the needs of the business.

S3 support. In addition to support for popular file storage protocols, all five solutions support the S3 protocol for object storage. With S3, organizations can integrate its file collaboration solutions with private and public cloud object storage.

Concurrent protocol access. Within an enterprise, different teams may have different protocol needs. With concurrent multiprotocol access, data can be shared and accessed across diverse environments. All of the DCIG TOP 5 winners support concurrent protocol access (SMB, NFS, and S3) to the same datastore.

Wide use case support. Each of the DCIG TOP 5 solutions supports a wide variety of use cases beyond just file collaboration. This means IT departments can tailor their file storage solution to the needs of various applications or departments. This wide use case support also enables organizations to leverage these storage solutions for an extended period as business needs evolve.

Resilio Connect

Upon DCIG's completion of reviewing multiple, available providers of SDS products, DCIG ranked Resilio as a DCIG TOP 5 provider. Resilio Connect offers a different approach from traditional hub-and-spoke file collaboration tools. Built on a peer-to-peer (P2P) architecture, its distributed and multidirectional solution replicates and synchronizes files in parallel across multiple endpoints at once. Providing materially faster

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synchronization than legacy approaches, organizations can keep data current across multiple endpoints in the same or different locations and to remote and hybrid teams. This faster synchronization becomes especially noticeable when numerous nodes (three or more endpoints) and large data sets are involved. In remote and hybrid work, Resilio enables multiple collaborators in multiple locations using different devices to make changes to the same files in near real-time. In the background, Resilio reliably hashes and replicates changes to other connected devices in a many-to-many full mesh replication scheme. Resilio Connect's ability to reroute around network and system outages enhances availability and resiliency across servers and sites.

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Notable features that helped Resilio Connect earn a DCIG TOP 5 award include:

Synchronization without limits. Resilio Software can detect and synchronize changes to millions of files in real time. Organizations can architect file synchronization across as many servers, file systems, storage devices, sites, and on-premises or off-premises users as needed. Resilio Connect can handle small files and huge files. Synchronization can be one-way, two-way, one-to-many, many-to-many, and many-to-one. For real-time synchronization, Resilio detects file changes as they occur and starts transfers of changed data chunks immediately in compressed format. And while organizations commonly use Resilio Connect for on-premises deployments, Resilio runs in the cloud. For example, enterprises can configure Resilio Connect to move less active files to the cloud to free up on-premises storage.

Centralized synchronization management. Resilio Connect works with any type of popular server (physical, virtual, containerized), storage (DAS, NAS, SAN, and even cloud file and object storage), and operating system (Windows, Mac, and mobile). The Resilio Management Console runs on Windows or Linux. Using this console, managers can centrally manage all file synchronization services, such as adding, removing, or changing shares, synchronization times, and priorities. All functions may be automated through scripting or APIs. Additionally, administrators can monitor performance and set up notifications for important events.

Fast WAN optimization. Resilio Connect's integrated Zero Gravity Transport™ (ZGT) provides WAN optimization technology that delivers high-speed, low-latency synchronization over wide-area networks. Encrypted end-to-end, ZGT moves data at predictable speeds between all locations. Thus, full utilization of WAN bandwidth can be achieved. ZGT overcomes network latency and packet loss and adjusts to maximize network utilization while honoring business priorities. All features ensure mission-critical data synchronizes without delay across the enterprise. ■

About DCIG

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