Futureproof and Bulletproof Your Storage Environment

Truis

Platinum Business Partner IBM

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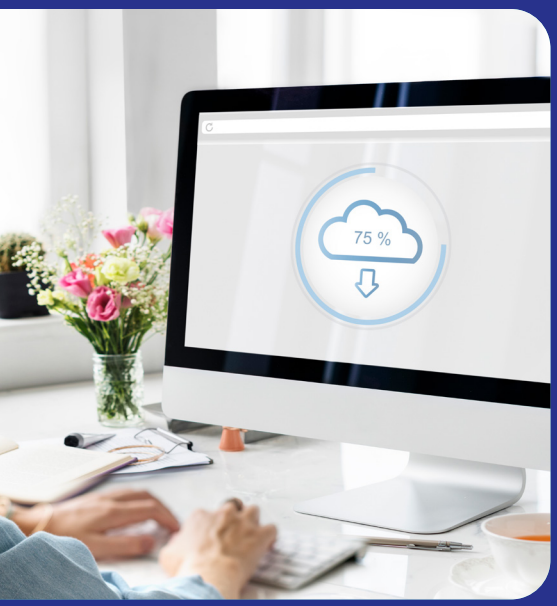
What you need to know about futureproofing your data storage environment

$3.5bn

The cost of cybercrime in Australia per year.



Cybercrime costs Australia over $3.5 billion per year; **up to 60% of backups are incomplete**. On average, **it takes around 206 days to detect a breach**, which leaves a large portion of businesses heavily exposed.

The big question still on everyone's mind is how do you keep up with cyber threats that evolve and advance daily?

The answer is Never. Stand. Still.

Then, how do you futureproof your environment when the pace of change in cyber threats feels like you're frantically chasing rainbows? The trick is to Verify everything and trust nothing.

We've all heard we need to take a zero-trust approach, but what does that actually mean in practice?

Let's dive in and dig in to how to bulletproof your primary storage environment, backups and data recovery systems.

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Primary Storage

Now, the challenge becomes navigating astronomical business growth while keeping up with security advancements. Businesses are storing exponentially more data than they were 10 years ago as the world becomes more digital, and technologies improve. Which asks the question; what processes and systems to you have in place to manage your data storage?

The Cloud

For many, part of the answer is looking to Cloud-Storage solutions to manage primary storage growth.

The adoption of cloud and cyber security services will drive the Australian B2B ICT landscape to hit $24.7 billion in FY26.

Cloud storage is also being heavily utilised for disaster recovery to deliver faster recovery times at a fraction of the cost.

We're adding cloud storage for DR to the futureproof list as it can solve several challenges in one go! Utilising a multi-cloud storage approach by storing data across different cloud platforms within your network can aid the distribution of your workloads. This means better managed data and reduces the risk of complete data loss.

Air Gap

Do you have an air gap?

“A what”, you say...?

An 'air gap' is a physical gap between your organisation's network and the storage media. This futureproofing strategy is good practice due to backups and storage directly connected to the network being susceptible to malware. This means there is more of a focus on an immutable or an air-gapped copy of your data to mitigate your risk from ransomware attacks and the regular testing of backups to ensure the validity of the job.

Suggested Exercise:

Forecast your expected storage usage based on month-to-month increases. Then monitor the trend and start planning for an expansion as soon as possible; given current lead times for hardware and even the time for RAID expansions, lead time can take more than a week in some cases.

Primary Storage

AI for infrastructure

Artificial Intelligence is your right-hand man when it comes to futureproofing your storage.

Add to your futureproof checklist **AI capability** that aids your team in preventing problems by using cloud-based predictive analytics to perform anomaly detection and proactively alert users of potential issues before they occur. This is particularly vital considering the time it takes to detect a data breach (see Data Recovery below).

We strongly recommend AI power solutions to help you get the most out of your storage and maximise SSD performance.

One of Truis's trusted solutions is IBM's AI-powered IBM Easy Tier® which automatically moves data between tiers to optimise cost and performance. The icing on the cake is that no performance tuning is required – it's completely automatic.

Suggested Exercise:

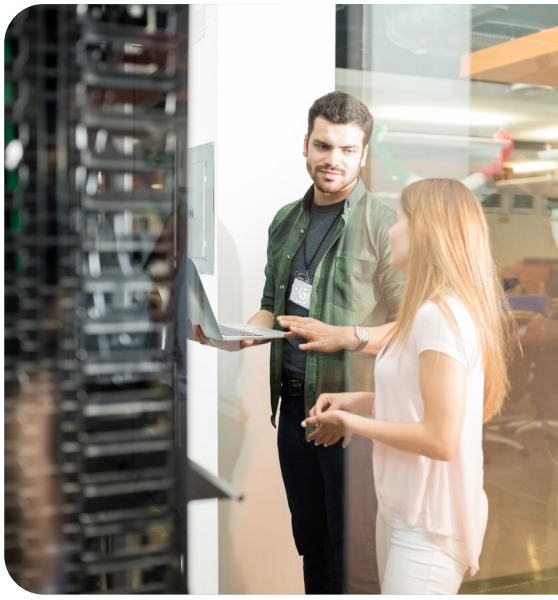
Look for a self-optimising storage solution that allows your capabilities to be increased at any stage so your storage solutions can grow along with your business needs.

Data reduction capabilities

The International Data Corporation forecasts that, **by 2025, the world will generate approximately 176 zettabytes of new data each year.** That's a lot of storage by anyone's standards!

Data reduction capabilities are a must for your futureproofing checklist; they ensure you can maximise your capacity, performance, and efficiency while lowering the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO).

One of our go-to's is the IBM Flashcore drive technology; we love it as it can perform data reduction with no performance impact to maintain consistent application performance (FlashSystem 5200 model).



Data Recovery

Suggested Exercise:

Preparing ahead and performing annual DR simulations helps determine realistic recovery times and any associated technical configuration issues that require attention – before a disaster occurs.

Detecting data breaches takes around 206 days – so it goes without saying that it's vital to stay ahead of the game when it comes to data recovery. We have recently seen the effects of the flooding and loss of power to businesses during the unprecedented storms across NSW & QLD this year.

Some of the heavily affected areas going without power for more than a week highlighted the necessity of having robust DR and business continuity plans in place. As the world has become digitally-led, it is imperative that your systems can be up and running after a disaster ASAP.

We understand that data recovery can fall down the never-ending priority list, but it will be your saviour in the event of an attack.

Our suggested first step is: Have you revisited and, if necessary, refreshed your data recovery strategy within the past 6 months?

If not, grab a coffee and dust off your strategy.

For our futureproof checklist, we recommend data recovery solutions that can migrate to and from the cloud.

The team at Truis highly regards the IBM Spectrum Virtualize™ system functionality in all IBM FlashSystem solutions. Why? We love its flexibility and the rapid deployment of block storage services for new and traditional workloads, on-premises, off-premises, and in combination. In the event of an attack, we all know speed counts to minimize financial and business impact!

DRaaS, AKA Disaster Recovery as a Service, is another tactic that can be explored. It protects data and provides standby computing capacity to quickly recover your data when something goes wrong. It gives you the potential to outsource infrastructure and avoid the high equipment cost required to run a disaster recovery site.

Back Up

It's said that up to 60% of backups are incomplete – this leaves businesses heavily exposed.

The priority to back up your data doesn't change; this remains the number one remedy against data loss.

However, it is often overlooked due to the constant demands on IT teams today.

The first step to futureproofing is awareness and a pulse check on where you are at today. Check the state of your backups. Are they being completed regularly enough to meet your business needs should you need them?

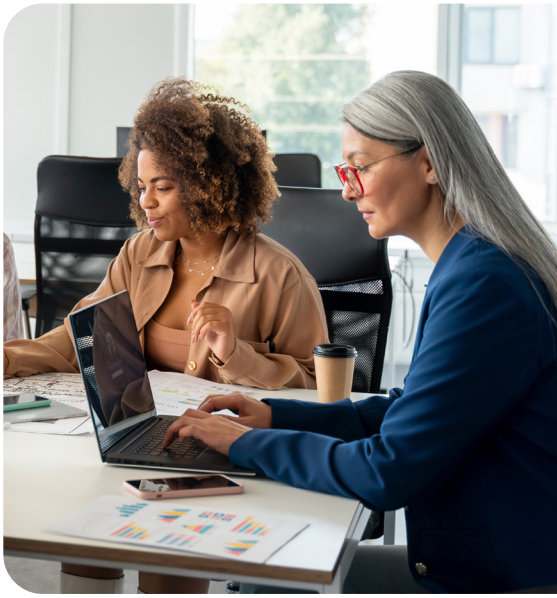
If the answer is no, consider whether the team has the capacity to back up at the frequency needed or if you need a helping hand.

As the golden rule of thumb, the futureproofing step for back up is to start with the basics, ensuring backups are completed 100% of the time.

Up to

60%

of backups are incomplete.



So, while we can do our best to prepare, IBM's pathway to recovery from an attack falls into three phases:

1. **Detection** that an attack has occurred
2. **Responding** to the attack
3. **Recovery** from the attack

With the right systems in place, you can be ready to identify, respond to and recover from an attack in the shortest possible timeframe and with minimal losses to your business.

There's a reason backup as services are exploding: most IT teams simply don't have the hours in the day and need an extra set of hands!

The bonus beyond more hours in your day and reassurance that backups are being done is that you can move your investment from CAPEX to OPEX, which we see many businesses proactively looking to do.

Ready to find out more?

Here at Truis, we can design IT infrastructure solutions that aren't just effective — they're entirely tailored to your organisation. Being an IBM Platinum Partner, we have the tools and resources to work with you to provide support and options for all your backup infrastructures. Ensuring your organisation's data is prepared for the unexpected.

Book a FREE consultation with one of our certified experts today!

BOOK NOW

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