Using Veritas NetBackup™
and Amazon Web Services
to build business agility

OVERVIEW

Water and Environmental Services Giant Improves Data Protection, While Reducing TCO, with NetBackup and Amazon Web Services

Veolia has served the people of Paris for more than a century and a half, but its mission and geographic reach have both grown dramatically over the past few decades. Keeping up with corporate evolution requires an agile IT infrastructure. That's why the company decided to close its on-premises data centers and migrate all data and applications to the Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud. The shift is still in process, but already Veolia is reporting that backups take half as long; data restores complete in seconds or minutes, not hours or days; and staff are spending much less time on data protection.

165-YEAR-OLD BUSINESS EVOLVES INTO THE CLOUD

Founded by Napoleon III in 1853 as a French water company, Veolia has expanded to also provide waste management, transportation, and energy services to customers across 48 countries. The size of the organization makes process efficiency crucial. At the same time, the business must stay agile to accommodate continuing growth.

Corporate management decided to close all their on-premises data centers and move to an entirely cloud-based AWS environment. "This decision was motivated by two primary considerations," explains Aurélien Durand, storage and backup engineer for Veolia. "One was the desire to reduce costs. But we also had a goal of reducing the staff time required to support data and applications."

As the team prepared for the migration, data protection was a key concern. "We are planning to move all our data, including the most critical data, to AWS," Mr. Durand says. "If we were to lose accounting or financial information, that would have a major impact on our business."

In fact, he recounts a past incident in which a Veolia end user lost data that was unrecoverable. "Her desktop computer stored proposals and bids for

VEOLIA

ORGANIZATION PROFILE
Industry: Environmental services
Headquarters: Paris, France
Employees: approx. 163,000

KEY CHALLENGES
A large global environmental services firm, Veolia decided to reduce costs and improve process efficiencies by shifting all data and applications from on-premises data centers to Amazon Web Services (AWS). The company needed a solution to protect this new cloud-based environment.

SOLUTION
Veolia rolled out Veritas NetBackup™ using Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3). The migration team deployed a NetBackup master server Amazon Machine Image (AMI) to accelerate the rollout of data protection in the cloud.

BENEFITS
- 50% less time to complete backups
- Data restores complete in seconds or minutes, not hours or days
- 30-40% projected cost savings from eliminating tape backup storage
- Significantly less staff time required for data protection
- Increased corporate agility

new business," Mr. Durand says. "When she lost all her files, she was unable to respond to queries from prospective clients. We missed out on the short-term revenue associated with those particular bids, but we also potentially damaged longer-term relationships that might have developed with those clients. That experience reiterated how crucial data protection is for Veolia."

The company had long used Veritas NetBackup™ to protect data and applications in its on-premises data centers. The fact that staff already knew how to use the solution was one factor in Veolia's selection of data protection for the AWS environment. "We knew we would have a period of overlap when we would be protecting both on-premises data centers and data in AWS," Mr. Durand says. "We didn't want to complicate the migration by using multiple backup solutions at the same time or requiring our two backup specialists to learn a new software interface. That gave NetBackup an obvious advantage."

> "Knowing that all our data is in a central location, and that we can access it instantaneously, is a huge benefit of using NetBackup with AWS. A data restore that might take days in our on-premises environment can complete in seconds or minutes in AWS."
>
> *Aurélien Durand,*
> *Storage and Backup Engineer, Veolia*

Ease of use also drove the decision. "We really like the simplicity of the Veritas NetBackup user interface," Mr. Durand says. "We were especially pleased to learn that we can use the NetBackup interface to manage data protection across a variety of Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3) options, including Amazon Glacier and Amazon EBS [Elastic Block Store]."

Perhaps most important, the team was confident that NetBackup would effectively protect all the company's data and applications. "Veritas NetBackup has always been reliable for us," Mr. Durand says. "We have been very happy with the on-premises solution for more than a decade. That's why, as we planned data protection for the new AWS environment, we chose to leverage NetBackup in the cloud as well."

SECONDS TO RESTORE DATA FROM AWS VS. DAYS WITH LEGACY TAPE BACKUPS

When Mr. Durand and his colleagues began building out their AWS environment, they deployed NetBackup 8.1 to protect it. They were using Amazon Machine Images (AMIs) to accelerate the migration, and they deployed a NetBackup master server AMI for data protection. "The AMIs have been an extremely useful tool," Mr. Durand says. "They are enabling us to migrate our infrastructure very quickly. We have been very pleased with how well NetBackup and AWS work together."

Veolia started by migrating infrastructure tools and databases. Mr. Durand expects all the company's applications, and its 150 TB of data, to be running in the cloud within the next year. Even after migrating only about 30 TB of the company's data, the benefits of using NetBackup with Amazon S3 are abundantly clear.

"In our data centers, we are still backing up to tape," Mr. Durand says. "For the databases that we have migrated to AWS, backups take about half as long to complete compared with the on-premises, tape-based backups."

The difference is even more significant for data restores. "Knowing that all our data is in a central location, and that we can access it instantaneously, is a huge benefit of using NetBackup with AWS," Mr. Durand says. "Recovery time is extremely rapid, because we no longer have to look around to find the right tape. A data restore that might take hours, or even days, in our on-premises environment can complete in seconds or minutes in AWS."

Once Veolia's migration to AWS is complete, all the company's data will receive this level of protection. The combination of NetBackup and AWS will give Veolia comprehensive data protection on their proposals, bids, and all their other business-critical files.

EFFICIENCIES REDUCE TCO, INCREASE AGILITY

Better yet, Veolia expects the new environment to substantially reduce the total cost of ownership (TCO) of data protection. "We will not be able to precisely quantify the difference until we have eliminated our data center environment," Mr. Durand explains, "but we think data protection will cost 30 to 40 percent less with NetBackup in AWS. We will no longer have to pay for storage of tape media, which is significant.

"A related benefit is that staff spend much less time on day-to-day data protection tasks in the AWS environment," he adds. That is partly because they no longer have to manage physical movement of tapes and partly because the NetBackup 8.1 interface is so user-friendly. "We can see, at a glance, exactly what has been backed up and whether backups have completed successfully." This simplification of data protection in the AWS environment frees staff to focus on more strategic activities. Thus, Veolia's lean IT team is better positioned to continue to support a growing and changing business, ultimately making the company more agile.

"With AWS, we have the ability to assign new machines to support new business applications within just a few minutes," Mr. Durand concludes. "Using NetBackup on AWS enables us to provide data protection for those systems just as quickly. This makes us better prepared to support the ongoing evolution of Veolia."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Veritas NetBackup

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