Microsoft

Use Case:

Archive migration to Azure with Azure Data Box

Archives help meet business needs, compliance mandates

Archives typically store historical data that organizations retain for business reasons, including regulatory compliance purposes. Archives might include years or decades worth of data that for legal reasons must be discoverable within a reasonable timeframe.

Ideally, archive policies enhance discoverability by filtering data that is legally required for compliance. For example, compliance policies dictate the retention of a doctor's notes on patients, but not emails to a spouse. Benefits include a simplified and faster discovery process and optimized storage operations, because the archive holds only data that meets user-established conditions. The filtering process typically takes place using a third-party solution hosted either on-premises or in the cloud.

Microsoft Azure: The best place to store archived data

Maintaining archives traditionally meant maintaining copies in secondary sites and colocations to mitigate against disasters and ensure that the archive data remains viable when needed.

But what if you could set up a secure, cost-effective archive minus the time and expense of a secondary site—and as a further benefit, access analytics services to gain additional value?

You can, with Azure. Here's how it works:

- Choose an Azure archive software partner.
- Use only the Azure infrastructure services you need, and avoid overprovisioning and underutilization.
- Take advantage of flexible Azure storage tiers that enable you to store archive data securely and at a price point based on access time, cost, and other factors, such as Hot, Cool, and Archive storage tiers.
- Use Azure analytics services such as HDInsight to derive additional value from your archive data.

Small: Data Box Disk – 8 TB

Medium: Data Box – 100 TB

Large: Data Box Heavy – 1 PB

Your options for data migration

Migrating archive data over a network is always the best first choice. Yet migrating large amounts of data into Azure can be a challenge, especially for organizations with limited network bandwidth. This is especially true with the typical big chunk of data that can be tens or hundreds of terabytes—or even petabytes—in size.

For example, moving 1 PB of archive data over a network with 100 Mbps of available bandwidth will take over three years to complete. That's obviously not a workable migration scenario for archive data.

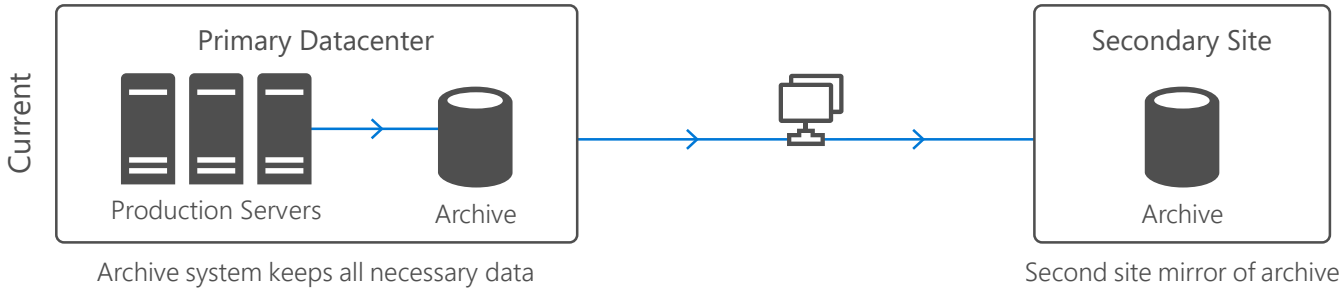
Devices from the Data Box family are a solid alternative to address this challenge. Data Box devices are designed to move large amounts of data from your datacenter, colo, or vault, into Azure. They are simple to order and use, extremely secure, and very efficient at moving data into the cloud. Data transfer, including filling the Data Box, shipping, and uploading archive data into Azure, is fast.

Data Boxes come in three sizes; one is perfect for your needs:

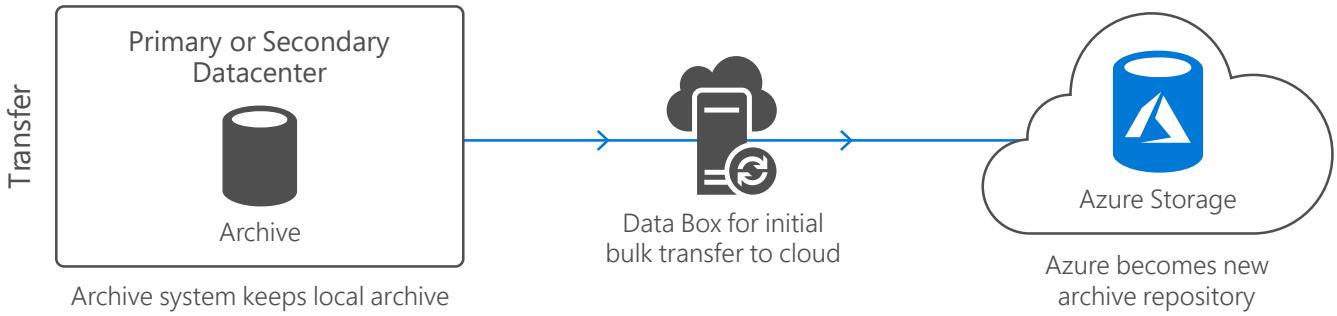
- Small: Data Box Disk—a small form factor 8 TB SSD, orderable in sets of five
- Medium: Data Box—a ruggedized, highly secure 100 TB portable device
- Large: Data Box Heavy—a 1 PB device for lifting massive data payloads to Azure

Once the initial bulk archive data has been uploaded into Azure via a Data Box, the ongoing archives will use the network to transfer incremental updates to the cloud, as illustrated in the diagrams that follow.

How it works: Data Box facilitates archive migration into Azure

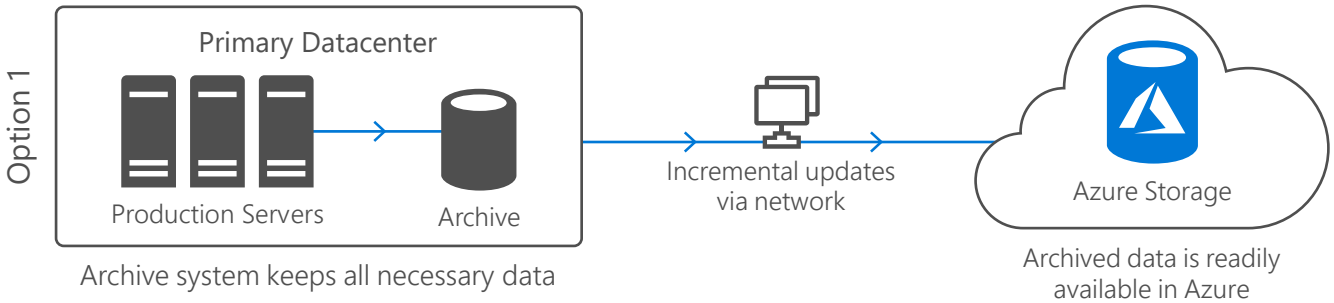


Current State: Archive data is maintained in a secondary site, data center or colo.

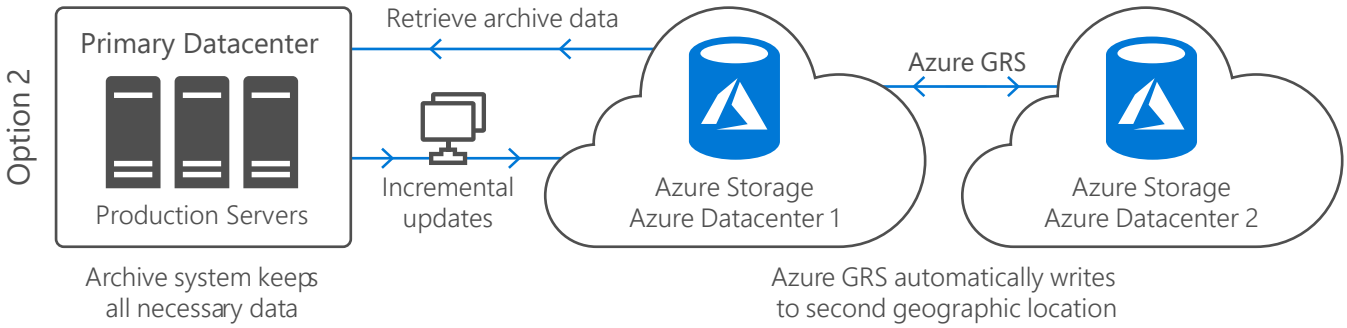


Data Box facilitates archive data migration into Azure.

Update options for ongoing operations



Option 1 for updates: Keep one copy at the Primary DC and one on Azure.



Option 2 for updates: Keep one copy in one Azure geo and one in a different Azure geo for redundancy.

Azure partners integrate with Data Box

Getting your data into a workable archive on Azure is easier, faster, and better thanks to Azure partners that offer archive products and services integrated with Data Box. Find partners that specialize in the Archive function on the Data Box partner page. All partner services are validated to meet Azure standards.

Summary

Azure offers an excellent alternative for off-site archive requirements. Azure's flexible storage tiers let you store archive data securely and at a price point based on access time, cost, and other factors, such as for Hot, Cool, and Archive storage tiers. Your ability to scale up and down with Azure services helps you avoid overprovisioning and underutilization.

However, migrating large amounts of archive data into Azure can present a challenge. The data—which can be terabytes and even petabytes—can take an unacceptably long time to move across the network, especially in a limited bandwidth scenario. In those cases, when the network isn't an option, Azure Data Box offers a fast, simple, and secure way to transport large amounts of archive data into Azure.

Learn more about Azure Data Box at http://azure.com/DataBox.

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