Nominee: N2W Software

Nomination title: Cloud Protection Manager from N2W Software

Companies large and small depend on 24/7 access to their data and a crucial need for a backup solution that can be accessed quickly and reliably. No matter what your vertical is - financial, healthcare, mobile, IT, transport, media - the risk of even seconds of downtime is too just large to gamble with. Enterprise companies need to be prepared for potential data breaches, ransomware, errors, bugs and weather related disasters. The consequences can be dire and can be anything from shutting down entire airports for hours to a ransomware attack hitting over 150 countries. These threats are growing at an exponential rate (ransomware will attack a business every 14 seconds by end of 2019) and maintaining your desired RTO and RPO for business continuity has never been more important.

While backup and DR have always been good business practice, the growing need for compliance as new regulations are dictating how digital data is handled have made a reliable backup and DR plan essential. GDPR, PCI-DSS, HIPPA and SOX requirements just to name a few, demand that a plan must be designed to protect and maintain the privacy of the company's data.

For organisations running AWS workloads, this is where Cloud Protection Manager (CPM) from N2W Software steps in. CPM is an enterprise level backup and disaster recovery solution featuring very flexible backup scheduling, which ensures you are protected from outages, failures, and data losses, so that businesses can meet their recovery point (RPO) and recovery time objective (RTO). The cloud-native backup solution is built specifically for AWS. CPM gives enterprise teams the ability to back up data as often as needed, and recover it far more quickly (two clicks and under 1 minute you're restored) than with traditional on-premises backup solutions, simplifying workloads, saving teams time and resources.

We hear over and over again that one main advantage of CPM is that it is sold as an AMI rather than a SAAS solution. Organisations are able to launch their own instance in their own server, maintaining 100% control over their environment. No information goes over the wire, or even to N2W Software! The CPM server sits as an EC2 instance inheriting all the compliance and security for that AWS region. CPM offers valuable multi-tenancy so different users can then login and manage their own backup. N2WS has recently integrated SAML-based IDP providers such as Active Directory Federation Services (AD FS) and Okta which adds enhanced data stewardship for added data compliance coverage by automating the employee termination process.

CPM leverages and enhances native AWS capabilities such as snapshots which we believe are the most efficient backup available. Snapshots can be scheduled with frequencies that range from minutes to months and retained for any period of time. CPM automates backup and recovery for EC2 instances, EBS volumes, RDS, Redshift, and Aurora clusters by extending and enhancing these native Amazon snapshots. CPM protects hundreds of thousands of Amazon EC2 instances that need to back up often and recover quickly.

Using CPM's disaster recovery feature, organisations can rest easy knowing that their data is available and recoverable even if a whole region is down. This is because EBS snapshots can be copied both between regions and across accounts. You can recover complete instances to these other regions or accounts including all data and configurations and be back up to production in only seconds.

CPM also provides many other features including easy-to-use interface for scheduling backups and restoring instances. With CPM, users can implement elaborate scheduling schemes that range from minutes to months without accruing additional AWS storage costs. This is done through flexible policy-based backups. In addition to supporting application consistent backups on production environments, CPM provides users with robust reporting, alerting, auditing and dashboard functions. CPM already helps hundreds of enterprises and service providers protect the valuable data and mission-critical applications in the AWS cloud.

CPM meets the compliance needs of various regulations, particularly the upcoming GDPR which dictates how companies store and retrieve data. Under GDPR, storage solutions must be simple to access and manage and data retrieval and recovery must be easy and efficient. CPM achieves this by:

Ensuring that personal data is protected against misuse at every stage of its lifecycle.

allowing companies to restore access to personal data quickly following an outage or failure.

providing comprehensive logs and audit trails

In addition to external regulations, corporate governance is an increasing concern as companies are under pressure from stakeholders to be transparent, secure and accountable. Our previously mentioned SAML-based IDP integration provides additional security in order to minimize employee termination risk. Also, using CPM frees organisations from reliance on home-grown scripts. Eliminating worry about people leaving the company or being out sick while an urgent recovery is needed is the one of the most effective ways to avoid massive disasters before they occur.

What is most rewarding is knowing that potential downtime is no longer keeping our customers up at night. We hear countless stories of CPM saving critical workloads, and N2W Software is happy to continue developing CPM to fit the specific needs of our customers. Here is just one example of the many enthusiastic quotes we've received:

"CPM gives us confidence that the backups have been performed each night and are consistent. Set it up within no time at all and then forget about it no maintenance needed. This is a real time saver."

Why nominee should win

-CPM is launched as an AMI in their own server, maintaining 100% control over their environment. No information goes over the wire, or even to N2W Software!

-CPM provides instant restore. In under 1 minute and with 2 clicks, users have the option to recover on the instance, volume or file level.

-CPM is optimized for Amazon EC2 architecture, leveraging snapshot efficiency and saving the user on significant costs and time

-CPM provides valuable features that make GDPR compliance quick, easy and affordable (audit trails, ability to identify data instantaneously,etc)

- CPM frees organisations from reliance on home-grown scripts.