

SOLUTION BRIEF

Understanding object storage

Learn how to put object
storage to use throughout
your organization with
NetApp and Splunk



What is object storage?

Object storage lets you manage and manipulate data storage as distinct units that are called objects. Instead of being stored inside files and folders, objects are kept in a single storehouse. Object storage then combines all the data that makes up a file, adds any relevant metadata to that file, and gives it a custom identifier.

By adding comprehensive metadata to the file, object storage eliminates the tiered file structure used in file storage, placing everything into a flat address space called a storage pool. This metadata is key; it's what allows object storage to provide deep analysis of the use and function of data in the storage pool.

What's the difference between object storage, file storage, and block storage?

With object storage, each piece of data is designated as an object. All data is kept in separate storehouses instead of files and folders. It's then bundled with associated metadata and a unique identifier to form a storage pool.

On the other hand, file storage imitates the way paper files are stored: Data is stored as a file—a single piece of information—and files are organized into folders. When you need the data, the computer must know the path to find it. Meanwhile, block storage separates a file into blocks of data that are then stored separately. Each block of data has its own address, freeing it from being stored in a file structure.

What are the benefits of object storage?

- Deliver rich media. Reduce your costs for globally distributed rich media by defining workflows for managing unstructured data.
- Manage distributed content. Optimize the value of data throughout its lifecycle to deliver competitive storage services.
- Embrace the Internet of Things (IoT). Save money and compress the time involved in designing and managing machine-to-machine data transfers, AI, and analytics.

Key benefits

- Object storage metadata provides classification for every piece of data, increasing the opportunity for analysis.
- Object storage makes it simple to keep adding data without worrying about file storage limits.
- You can retrieve data faster thanks to categorization structure and lack of folder hierarchy.
- The scale-out nature of object storage means that it's less costly to store all your data.
- Object storage has fewer limitations than file or block storage because of customizable metadata and a lack of filing hierarchy.

Get smart, fast, and future-proof object storage with NetApp and Splunk

NetApp® StorageGRID® provides secure, durable object storage for the private and public cloud. Content is always in the right place, at the right time, and on the right storage tier, helping you optimize workflows and reduce your overall costs for globally distributed media.

Meanwhile, Splunk provides advanced, scalable, and effective software technology to index and search log files that are stored in a system. With the help of Splunk software, searching for insight in a bunch of complex data is easy.

Together, NetApp and Splunk give you an easy opportunity to get going with object storage. After you gain an object storage beachhead, a whole series of other workload opportunities will emerge to generate and support new revenue streams and sales growth.

Learn more about NetApp [object storage solutions](#).

About NetApp

In a world full of generalists, NetApp is a specialist. We're focused on one thing, helping your business get the most out of your data. NetApp brings the enterprise-grade data services you rely on into the cloud, and the simple flexibility of cloud into the data center. Our industry-leading solutions work across diverse customer environments and the world's biggest public clouds.

As a cloud-led, data-centric software company, only NetApp can help build your unique data fabric, simplify and connect your cloud, and securely deliver the right data, services and applications to the right people—anytime, anywhere. www.netapp.com

