



SUCCESS STORY

Public Sector

**FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY  
PROBLEM SOLVED**

A federal law enforcement agency established a hybrid cloud environment with NetApp Private Storage as a Service to take advantage of public cloud compute and infrastructure without relinquishing control of its data.

# Federal Law Enforcement Agency Strengthens Data Control and Governance

IT consolidation is a top priority in our nation's capital today, where deep budget cuts across most agencies are expected in the coming months. If implemented, these reductions are likely to squeeze already stressed IT budgets. One federal law enforcement agency is thinking outside the box, using secure hybrid cloud solutions from 1901 Group to address optimization, security, and budget priorities—and setting an example for other federal agencies in the process.

Another NetApp solution delivered by:



**FISMA-compliant hybrid cloud**

**Maintain data control and chain of custody**

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“With the NetApp model there’s no question who owns the data and where it is physically stored. The hardware has only agency data on it and is in a secure physical location that only agency cleared resources have access to.”

Chief of IT Systems Management Division  
Federal Law Enforcement Agency

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With 7,500 employees in 280 offices across the United States, this federal law enforcement agency stores and uses terabytes of data annually, including sensitive law enforcement and evidentiary information. Many of the agency’s activities are carried out in conjunction with task forces made up of state and local law enforcement officers. In the event of an incident, law enforcement professionals from multiple organizations depend on rapid access to the agency’s data to protect the public from violent crime.

With 800TB and counting, the agency began a multiyear project to lower IT costs and refresh its server and storage infrastructure as well as to meet a Department of Justice mandate to close its data center. It was interested in taking

advantage of cloud computing to turn capital expenses into operational expenses, but it was concerned about data ownership and governance given the sensitive nature of its data. With numerous organizations depending on its data for evidence in court, the agency must be able to document chain of custody for all data in its possession. Putting data in a public cloud was not an option.

With an immediate need to refresh various infrastructure components and a near-term mandate to close its data center, the agency turned to 1901 Group to develop and execute a hybrid cloud strategy that provides the required server and storage infrastructure while ensuring chain of custody for sensitive law enforcement data.

“As part of our strategy, we want to consume all infrastructure components, such as storage and servers and all supporting infrastructure activities like monitoring, management, maintenance, and technical refresh, as a service,” says the chief of the agency’s IT systems management division. “But we have to retain control of our data due to law enforcement requirements.”

#### **PUBLIC CLOUD EFFICIENCY, PRIVATE CLOUD CONTROL**

Working with NetApp and 1901 Group, the agency implemented a groundbreaking hybrid cloud solution that aligns with Cloud First, FedRAMP, and recent modernization mandates, while ensuring data control and governance. With NetApp Private Storage as a Service (NPSaaS) from 1901

Group, the agency stores its data in a dedicated, FedRAMP-authorized private cloud, and consumes infrastructure and disaster recovery services on a per-terabyte basis.

NPSaaS places dedicated NetApp® storage in a private cage at an Equinix data center. Secure, direct, fault-tolerant connections to Amazon Web Services, Azure, SoftLayer, and Google clouds provide rapid access to public cloud compute resources.

All data is stored on the NPSaaS device in a private cloud, to which only authorized agency employees have access. Therefore the agency maintains the data control and governance it needs to meet compliance and chain of custody requirements.

“With the NetApp model there’s no question who owns the data and where it is physically stored,” says the chief of the agency’s IT

systems management division. “It is agency managed. It’s agency controlled under an agency contract. The hardware has only agency data on it and is in a secure physical location that only agency cleared resources have access to.”

NPSaaS from 1901 Group enables multi-cloud access to leading public clouds, giving the agency freedom from vendor lock-in and the ability to move workloads in minutes between public and community cloud offerings. When prices change or new features become available, the agency can always choose the most cost-effective service for its needs.

The as-a-service delivery model helped the agency avoid capital expenses and alleviated budgetary constraints. Today, the agency no longer needs to invest capital in infrastructure that will eventually need to be replaced. Infrastructure is managed, maintained, and

refreshed by 1901 Group on a 24/7 basis. The agency gets elastic infrastructure and robust disaster recovery services based on the latest enterprise technologies for a predictable monthly fee.

### **FIGHTING CRIME WITH DATA**

Because of its proximity to leading hyperscale compute, the solution gives the agency rapid access to data. The agency can also tap into public cloud compute to quickly scale its storage up or down as needed.

In the event of a domestic terror incident that requires the agency to collect and share massive amounts of data, the agency can now quickly spin up public cloud compute resources necessary to accommodate the incoming system requests and increase the amount of storage on its private servers. That speed gives law enforcement officials timely access to the information they need to keep the public safe.

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With its secure hybrid cloud solution, the agency is blazing a trail for other agencies looking to reduce their IT budgets through consolidation. The agency is proof that it is possible for one of the largest federal law enforcement agencies to maintain data control and governance while dramatically lowering costs using the cloud.

## SOLUTION COMPONENTS

### NETAPP PRODUCTS

[NetApp Private Storage as a Service](#)

### PARTNER

1901 Group

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+1 877 263 8277



NetApp is the data authority for hybrid cloud. We provide a full range of hybrid cloud data services that simplify management of applications and data across cloud and on-premises environments to accelerate digital transformation. Together with our partners, we empower global organizations to unleash the full potential of their data to expand customer touchpoints, foster greater innovation and optimize their operations. For more information, visit [www.netapp.com](http://www.netapp.com). #DataDriven

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