

## Tech Brief: Top 5 Reasons to Backup with Object Storage

You know how to protect your data today but you're probably not satisfied with the current solutions. Who wants to spend countless hours managing current workflows only to discover that a backup job did not complete or that you cannot find critical data that needs to be restored?

As data growth continues to increase in capacity and importance, enterprises need a solution that can reliably manage and store backups so that IT administrators can if needed, retrieve data as quickly as possible.

### What are the options today?

Backup Storage Targets	TCO	Security	Backup Speed	Restore Speed	Off-site Disaster Recovery
Tape	\$	Fair	Good	Good	Fair
Disk	\$\$	<b>Good</b>	<b>Best</b>	<b>Best</b>	Good
Public Cloud	?	?	Fair	Fair	<b>Best</b>

Table 1 – Comparison of Backup Storage Targets

The current backup architectures have their pros and cons and they work today. But they simply were not designed or architected for the demands of data protection today.

- Tape is lower in cost but cannot provide immediate access for recovery.
- Traditional disk solutions are becoming more cost effective and deduplication technology is available in all modern backup applications.
- Public Cloud can be attractive on a small scale...**NOT** at large scale, and you do not control your data.

For IT administrators looking for a cost-efficient, reliable, high-performance, and scalable solution, object storage is an excellent option. The SwiftStack Object Storage System delivers the best of the three storage options (see Table 1) for the next generation of backup architectures:

- Scale and accessibility of public cloud, but in your data center(s).
- Responsiveness and capabilities of disk, but scalable like cloud.
- Cost model of tape, with unique capabilities for archiving and offsite disaster recovery.

Object storage is now widely adopted in some of the industry's highest-growth and performance-intensive environments, where backup and recovery can bring an organization to its knees. Cloud service providers, for instance, have embraced object storage in order to keep pace with exploding demands for more and more storage, and with increasing compliance mandates for secure, highly available and reliably recoverable data.



## Benefits of Using SwiftStack Object Storage for your Backups:

1. **Improve Retention:** Modern backup applications support cloud storage APIs to improve archiving and retention. With policy-based lifecycle and copy management across unified SwiftStack object storage, tape vaulting on premises or across data centers can be reduced or eliminated. What's more, it is now more practical and efficient to target retention of specific data types and content based on metadata.
2. **No Vendor Lock-in:** With SwiftStack, you can leverage the built-in deduplication and compression technology of your backup engine. Your data is always yours, and you can easily move data out without data lock-in. SwiftStack software runs on any standard server, the way most backup applications do.
3. **Shorter Backup Windows:** Modern backup applications can be configured to take advantage of SwiftStack's architecture and dramatically reduce backup windows. Unlike NAS or SAN targets with finite controller resources, SwiftStack's scale-out architecture uses a tier of ingest servers that scales independently and can accept very high parallel I/O or "concurrency".
4. **Consolidate Storage Silos:** SwiftStack Object Storage has a single unified namespace within and across data centers. This architecture means your backup target storage does not need to be spread across multiple silos. Performance scales linearly with addition of new nodes, all of which are managed by the SwiftStack out-of-band controller, giving you a view of your entire backup storage infrastructure.
5. **Architecturally Superior TCO:** SwiftStack decreases backup costs as it is built on standard cost-effective hardware. What was once a specialty feature, data deduplication for backup is now widely pervasive among backup applications. SwiftStack also has disaster recovery across data centers built-in, enabling further cost saving opportunities off-site compared to conventional backup infrastructure.

Disk-based solutions have evolved to deliver a better infrastructure for backup, enabling more granular protection and faster restore times. Object storage solutions are gaining traction for storing vast amounts of unstructured data and the architectural approach provides significant advantages over tape and vendor-specific deduplication. SwiftStack provides a solution built on an open architecture with open source software and standard hardware, eliminating vendor lock-in.

### Learn more about SwiftStack Object Storage!

SwiftStack is an industry leading object storage company. With OpenStack's object storage project Swift at its core, SwiftStack offers a flexible and powerful software platform that allows operators to simplify management of massively scale efficiently. With SwiftStack, application developers and operations teams can leverage the power of an object storage infrastructure with the control, security and total cost of ownership their business demands. Visit us at [swiftstack.com](http://swiftstack.com) or email us at [contact@swiftstack.com](mailto:contact@swiftstack.com) to learn more about how object storage can benefit you.