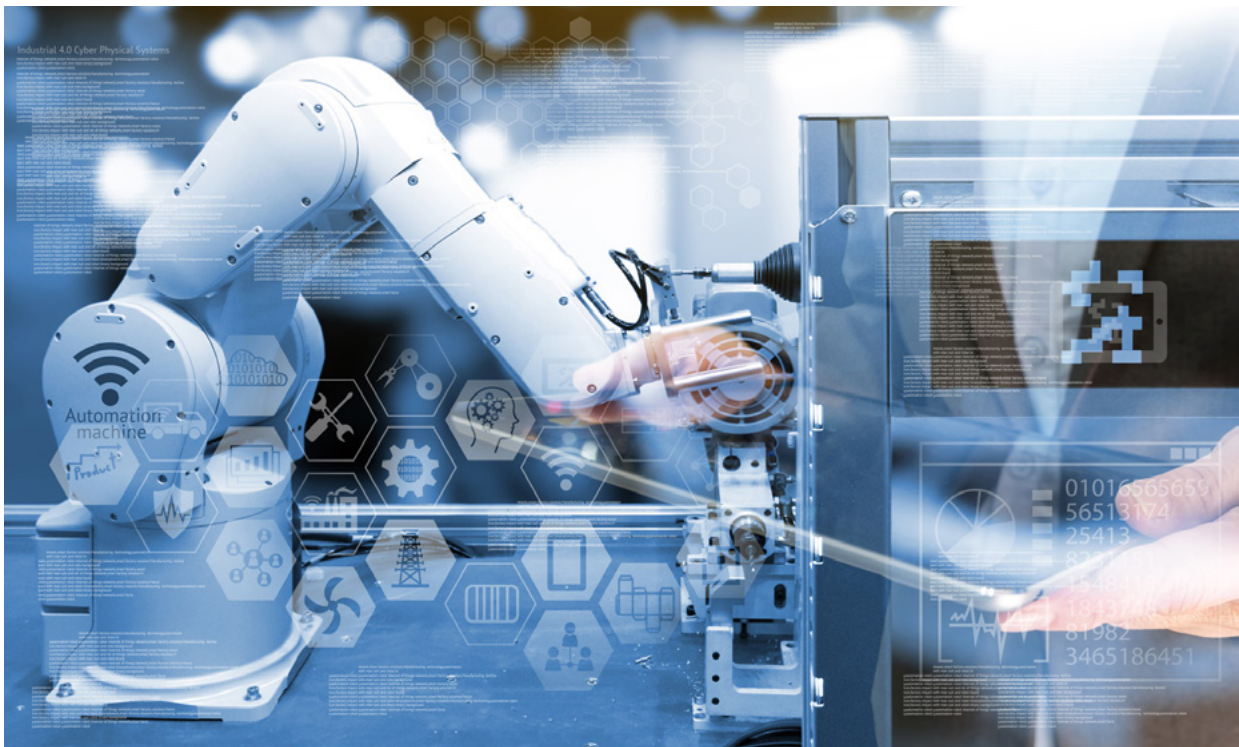Case Study

PoINT Storage Manager
Automotive Manufacturer

The Daimler AG has introduced an enterprise-wide tiered storage architecture using PoINT Storage Manager. The software automatically stores inactive data from their primary storage systems in a central private cloud environment, reducing the load on existing primary storage facilities in individual locations while also significantly reducing the size of data backups. Overall, the solution realized a significant cost and time saving mainly by reducing the volume of primary storage in use in the individual locations.
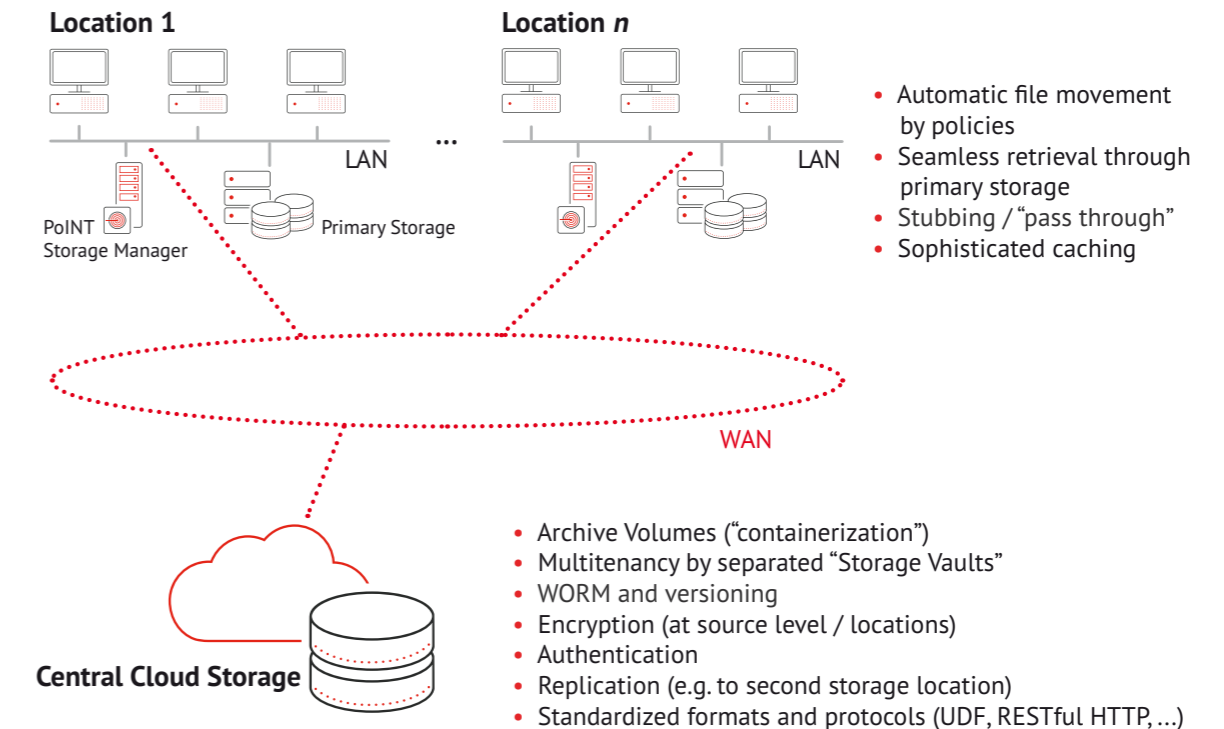
Challenge

- Cost and time savings by reducing the volume of inactive data on primary storage systems in world-wide locations
- Centralized storage of inactive data in a private cloud system
- Transparent access to all data through primary storage systems
- Primary storage migrations
- No vendor lock-in

Solution - PoINT Storage Manager

- Policy-based and automated file tiering from primary storage systems from different vendors to a central object storage system (private cloud)
- Transparent file access to tiered files through the primary storage systems
- "Pass Through on Read" functionality to prevent restore of archived file to primary storage systems
- Continuous operation during replacement of storage systems by background migration

Benefits

- Efficient use of NetApp FAS system by recovering valuable primary storage space
- Fulfillment of archiving and compliance requirements
- Shrunken backup window
- Reduced capital expenses
- Native integration of NetApp storage

Location 1

Location n

LAN

...

LAN

PoINT Storage Manager

Primary Storage

WAN

Central Cloud Storage

- Automatic file movement by policies
- Seamless retrieval through primary storage
- Stubbing / "pass through"
- Sophisticated caching

- Archive Volumes ("containerization")
- Multitenancy by separated "Storage Vaults"
- WORM and versioning
- Encryption (at source level / locations)
- Authentication
- Replication (e.g. to second storage location)
- Standardized formats and protocols (UDF, RESTful HTTP, …)

Daimler AG is implementing the data management software PoINT Storage Manager enterprise-wide. The enterprise expects to be able to use the private cloud to store around 50 to 80 percent of the data currently kept on file-service-based primary storage devices in its individual plants – a quantity of data best measured on the petabyte scale. Because of the way PoINT Storage Manager interfaces with and uses the private cloud storage environment, it also meets the current security requirements.

The project team were convinced by the functionality and reliability of PoINT Storage Manager. The software provides each individual site a transparent way to access off-site and write-protected data using their primary storage systems, meaning that the application and estabilised processes remain unchanged. In particular, this affects Office documents, PDF files and images which have not been used for over 13 months.

PoINT Storage Manager is used as a so-called "file tiering gateway" at the automobile manufacturer's head office in Stuttgart, as well as at plants in Bremen, Hamburg and Gaggenau and many others. Additional sites will gradually follow in other countries.

PoINT Storage Manager has integrated the existing private cloud system into the storage infrastructure without costly changes and disruption. In addition to the tiering and archiving functionality the manufacturer makes also use of the integrated migration functions of PoINT Storage Manager which allow background migrations from "legacy" storage systems by transparent migration to new systems. Existing data within the storage systems which has to be replaced could be migrated during normal business operation – data remained accessible even during the migration process.

About PoINT

PoINT Software & Systems GmbH is specialized in the development of software products and system solutions for storage and management of data using all available mass storage technologies like hard disk, magnetic tape, optical media, object store and cloud storage. PoINT works jointly together with leading hardware manufacturers. Thus PoINT can offer an early support of innovative storage technologies. Besides these complete solutions PoINT also offers its know-how as toolkits, which can be easily integrated in other applications by the programming interface.

High flexibility, observance of the workflow and policy-based data management allow an efficient usage of hardware and thus help to reduce costs and problems caused by data growth.

Additional information and a trial version of the software are available at www.point.de.