Intellectual Property Law Firm Gains Robust On-Prem Data Protection

The client

The client is a 365-attorney intellectual property and litigation firm that has been in business for more than 125 years. The firm operates more than a dozen offices around the globe, with a major presence in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. Their attorneys have won landmark cases worth billions in controversy, often spurring the creation of new laws, for innovative clients and industry.

The challenge: Limited tech diversity posing business continuity and disaster recovery risks

The firm’s IT environment was purposefully built to be modern and simple — simple to manage, simple to update, and simple to scale. They have two primary data centers in the U.S. to house their fully on-premises architecture and a lean IT team to manage it all.

However, their primary storage and data protection relied solely on the technology and operating system from a single vendor. The firm’s CIO was concerned about this approach, as it meant that if any bug or corruption were to hit that vendor’s operating system, all of the firm’s data could be wiped out with no other backup option for recovery. Such a homogeneous environment puts the business at higher risk than they would be with a more diverse infrastructure and failover systems.
The solution: Parallel data protection stacks in both existing data centers

The firm had worked with Insight on a prior initiative, so they knew what our team was capable of and how we worked. Early discussions about this project laid out a clear need for an on-premises solution for data protection that provided adequate failover in the case of any operating system or other issue. The nature of their business, handling highly sensitive information for patent litigation, made the CIO wary of using cloud platforms due to the changes it would require of their security and governance processes.

We set out to determine whether they would benefit from using one or two data centers, and of what type, for their new data protection infrastructure. The client opted to keep things simple by deploying a hardware and software stack in each of their existing data centers to serve the local hardware, with the ability to share or swap stacks if needed.

Our team performed discovery, led the client team through architecture conversations, and provided demos of various options. Although we seriously considered Commvault as a solution, taking into account its flexibility and extensive feature sets, we identified Rubrik as the ideal solution. The client is a VMware® and SQL shop, a good fit for Rubrik, and the solution would provide the ease of management and scalability the client needed. The new Rubrik® infrastructure is being supported through Insight OneCall™. We also implemented Cloudian® object storage for the client’s own private cloud.

The benefits: Addressing short-term needs; laying the foundation for continual value

The client now has a data protection stack that is acting as a tertiary resource but is plenty capable of being a primary resource. Discussions post-implementation have evolved, as our team is helping them to better understand how their new infrastructure could become their primary data protection. In the future, they are equipped to reclaim massive amounts of storage (500–750GB) they’re currently using for daily replication.

Meanwhile, their new solutions are giving them the data protection and manageability required, while Insight OneCall is there for any needs should they arise. As they continue taking on some of the biggest intellectual property cases worldwide, they can trust their data is accessible and recoverable.

Benefits:

- Reduced risk of data loss and corruption
- Better business continuity and preparedness
- Scalable and easy-to-manage solutions
- Option to reclaim 500–750GB of capacity increases solution value in near future
- Fast access to experienced technical support