

Red Hawk Casino Eliminates Tape Complexity with Rubrik



RESULTS

- 50% reduction in hardware/software licensing spend
- 60% reduction in annual maintenance and services spend
- Significant reduction in deployment and system management
- Instant recovery (RTO=minutes vs. hours to weeks)

THE CHALLENGE

- Management complexity of archiving data to tape
- Inability to test backups quickly
- RTO requires hours, up to weeks
- Application stun of highly transactional databases

THE SOLUTION

- Backup and recovery for virtualized environment
- Public cloud replaces tape for long-term data retention
- Global real-time search to instantly locate files on-site and off-site
- Successful backup and granular recovery for highly transactional databases

Red Hawk Casino, located near Sacramento in Placerville, California, is run by the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians. Since 2008, Red Hawk has provided a 24-hour gaming space filled with 2,000+ slot machines, game tables, restaurants, and more. The IT team is responsible for ensuring all guests can access casino games at any time. What sets apart a casino IT environment is the sheer number and variety of systems managed by each system administrator. At Red Hawk, there are hundreds of different systems underpinning back office operations (marketing, finance, HR), customer services (valet, garment), facility management (lights, heating/cooling), gaming (slots), and more. As a result, Red Hawk is always on the lookout for ways to reduce IT management complexity through simplicity and automation.

TAPE MANAGEMENT NIGHTMARES

Maintaining the backup and recovery infrastructure for the 100% virtualized casino has been a consistent challenge, especially managing data archival to tape and off-site storage. "Every day, I spend an hour to monitor our backup infrastructure and backup job schedules. Every other week, I essentially spend a full day on archiving data to tape. I've got to offload data to tape, reshuffle the tapes, refresh the tapes, move them off-site, all the while restarting backup jobs that have stopped or are not working," explains Systems Administrator Jake Warren. Restoring data from tape poses an even greater challenge. "Restoring data can take weeks if our local index doesn't have the data we need. We'll need to then recall the tapes, wait for the truck to pull up curbside, and restore the data from tape. If we pinpoint the incorrect location, we restart the process, which means searching for the right data in itself can drag on for weeks."

SWAPPING CLOUD FOR TAPE

To eliminate management complexity of tape, Red Hawk investigated the benefits of using Rubrik Converged Data Management. By deploying Rubrik's Hybrid Cloud Appliance, Red Hawk simplified its datacenter footprint with a solution that converged backup software and globally deduplicated storage into a single fabric. "We were using two leading Gartner Magic Quadrant vendors for backup software and

backup storage. Just deploying backup software took a week, but with Rubrik's turnkey appliance, the system was running and protecting our virtual environment within 30 minutes. Unboxing and racking the appliance was the hardest part," Warren says. Red Hawk achieved other benefits, including:

- **Elimination of complex, time-intensive backup infrastructure management** – "We love the simplicity of Rubrik's management with its intuitive, easy-to-use dashboard. Immediately, I can understand the status of the system, what jobs are running, what problems I should address. I no longer need to drilldown into dozens of settings, storage policies, and disk libraries."
- **Instant recovery for zero RTO and immediate recovery testing** – "We can mount virtual machine disk files directly on Rubrik for our dev/test environment or for instant recovery, reducing the time spent on restoring data back to the production environment. By booting our files directly on Rubrik, we can quickly test whether our backups jobs were successful."
- **Overcome application stuning of highly transactional applications** – "Rubrik's quick ingest via flash eliminated the effects of VMware application stuning, which we faced when snapping our SQL databases. Our highly transactional SQL databases required lengthy snapshot windows, which prevented us from having crash-consistent snapshots. With Rubrik's fast ingest, we are able to take VM-level snapshots of applications with high change rates and at greater frequencies for more granular recovery."

Rubrik allows Red Hawk to finally eliminate tape for long-term data retention and utilize Amazon Web Services as a target for long-term data retention. Rubrik's global real-time search turns the public cloud into an easy-to-use, cost-effective alternative. "The ability to instantly locate specific data sets by searching an index that catalogues data on-site and off-site eliminates the pain and time spent on taping out and waiting for recalled tapes," Warren says. "I can now focus my time on more strategic projects and what I really enjoy

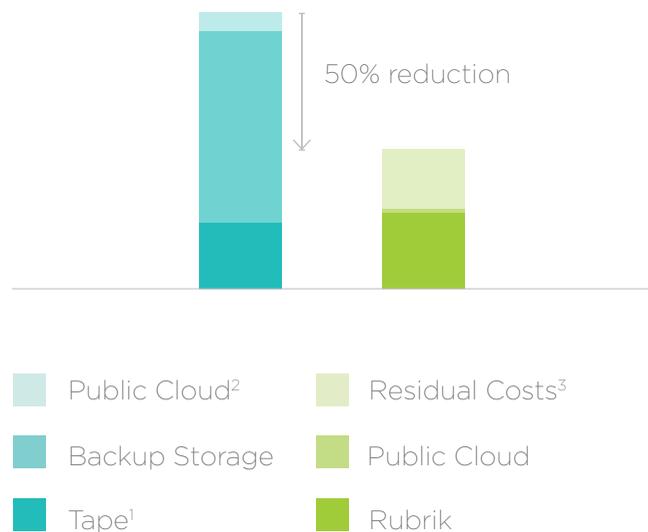
doing, such as designing and implementing new technologies at Red Hawk."

IMMEDIATE HARD SAVINGS

Prior to Rubrik, Red Hawk acquired licenses for backup software and backup storage target solutions, complete with annual maintenance fees, and allotted an annual recurring spend for tape library maintenance/support, tape media, and off-site tape handling. After deploying Rubrik, Red Hawk was able to reduce its infrastructure acquisition spend by 50%. Annual fees paid in maintenance and support for software, hardware, and tape were reduced by 60% with a simpler data center footprint (without tape).

TOTAL HARD SAVINGS BEFORE AND AFTER RUBRIK

Initial HW/SW Acquisition Costs + Annual Spend on Maintenance/Support/Services



Notes:

1. Media, maintenance, off-site handling
2. Long-term data retention storage and transfer costs
3. Includes contractual maintenance, support for legacy infrastructure
4. All costs include initial capital outlay and annual recurring spend