

Rubrik Elastic App Service: Protect Any Database with Native Tools

Harness native backup tools while benefiting from Rubrik Zero Trust Data Security

CHALLENGES WITH EXISTING SOLUTIONS

Database application backup and recovery have been complex with different approaches. Many enterprise backup solutions were created decades ago when tape was the primary, if not only, backup target because disk-based storage was very expensive. Production workloads were also small enough to support the periodic full backup method. As a result, deduplication target appliances emerged to solely address the storage efficiency problem with periodic full backups. Over time, to overcome inefficiencies with antiquated backup software designs, the deduplication appliance vendors developed host-side intelligence to bypass backup servers. This “native backup” from host applications to the deduplication target gained momentum among database administrators (DBAs) who preferred complete control over database backup and recovery.

However, deduplication targets have many of their own caveats. First and foremost, they were designed to support legacy backup software and, in many cases, cannot solve inefficient problems with backup software (brain for backup and recovery) that was designed for tape and smaller workloads. Fast forward, now we have enterprises racing to hybrid cloud and next-generation applications where age-old deduplication techniques are a misfit.

Second, almost all of deduplication appliances were designed with inflexible deduplication methods. For example, most deduplication appliances in the market use inline deduplication, which is very storage efficient but consumes a lot of compute and memory resources, increasing cost and impacting ingest speed. Since raw storage has been commoditized, this CPU-centric design has fallen out of step with market pricing trends. More importantly, recovery is much slower with inline deduplication—usually half the throughput as ingest—due to data rehydration penalty. The rehydration process, combined with the fact that they are not designed for random IOs, makes it also less feasible for instantly accessible test/dev clones and instant recovery—an increasingly popular demand from DBAs and application admins. Post-process deduplication solutions, on the other hand, do not have the performance issue with ingest and recovery from the latest backup, but recovery from deduplicated backup will be slow due to rehydration. They may also suffer from poor random IOs—not suitable for the live mount use cases (see *Figure 1*).

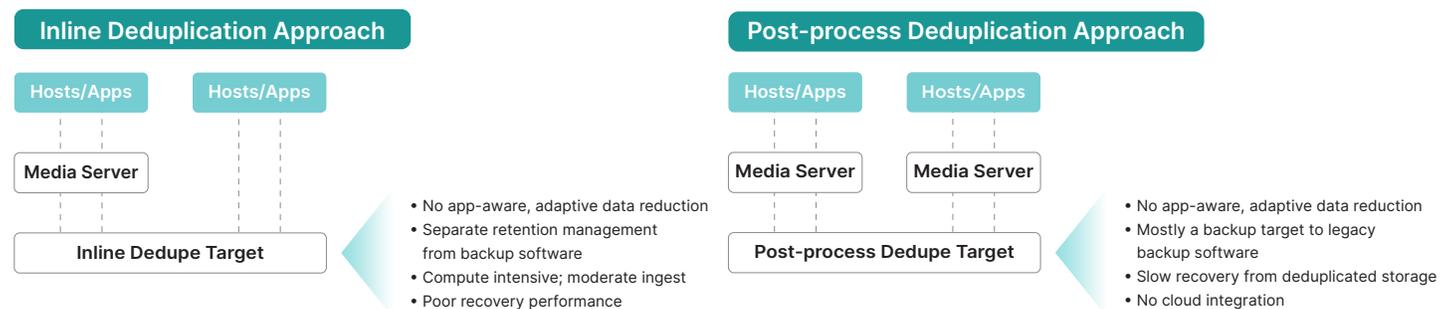


Figure 1 – Legacy Approaches to Target Deduplication

Third, deduplication targets are not application or database aware (case in point, native compression of database workloads), which is typically the function of heavy backup agents. As these targets perform “blind” deduplication, it results in wasted resources in compute and memory, especially if run in metered environments like Public Cloud infrastructure.

Organizations are facing changing market economics, modern workloads born out of digital transformation initiatives, new DevOps requirements for instant access to copy data, and different control points for database backup. They are in urgent need of an integrated data management solution designed for automation, flexibility and well-rounded efficiency, with the consideration of modern consumption-friendly pricing dynamics.

THE INNOVATION RUBRIK BRINGS WITH ELASTIC APP SERVICE

Rubrik Elastic App Service (EAS) can be used to protect any database or application using their own native data backup utility. Rubrik's design principles for EAS follow the industry best-practice guidelines gained over the years to offer a well-rounded compute and storage efficiency. Elastic App Service (see *Figure 2*), together with Rubrik Backup Service, enables the Rubrik Security Cloud (RSC) to offer enterprises a highly automated solution with robust choices of backup methods for different control points and/or workloads.

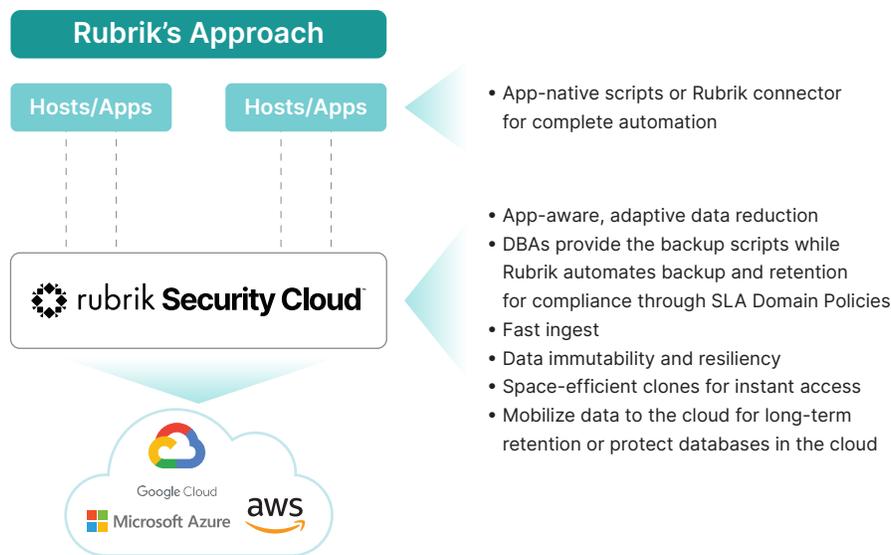


Figure 2 – Rubrik's Intelligent and Flexible Data Reduction Approaches

EAS allows DBAs to use their pre-built app-native scripts to manage backup and recovery and use RSC as an automated and centralized target. However, unlike other deduplication targets in the market that offer a inflexible inline or post-process deduplication methods, EAS is designed with the intelligence to choose the most appropriate data reduction method under the hood for a given workload, overcoming many constraints with traditional deduplication targets. Specifically, Rubrik's innovation stands out in the market in the following areas:



App-aware data reduction

For many mainstream or emerging databases and applications, EAS performs effective data reduction without using excessive compute and memory. This is achieved by leveraging, whenever available, host-side change-tracking mechanisms to reduce data from the source, as well as choosing an optimal chunking method based on the nature of application or database for data reduction. In contrast, traditional deduplication targets perform blind deduplication without application awareness, resulting in high compute consumption, average ingest throughput and poor restore performance.



Co-stewardship between DBAs and backup admins

DBAs are empowered to use their own scripts and native utilities, while backup admins can ensure backup data compliance using the same SLA Domain Policies to set backup frequency, retention, replication, and archival, unlike legacy solutions that separate deduplication appliance management from backup software management.



Fast ingest

Rubrik's innovative approach and scale-out architecture result in faster ingest—at many orders of magnitude—than traditional deduplication target solutions.



Data Immutability

Data landed in EAS is immutable, even when app host is held by ransomware. Unlike traditional solutions that serve as general NFS/CIFS targets, whose entire backup repository can be encrypted and locked up by ransomware (which negates the purpose for the backup), Rubrik's EAS offers an immutable repository once the backup is complete and the NFS share is unmounted.



Instantly accessible zero overhead clones

Unlike legacy deduplication targets that are not built for test/dev use cases, the snapshots of EAS can be mounted and exposed on demand to test/dev environments, reducing the time needed to make copy data available for Test/Dev use cases without impacting production.



Cloud Mobility

Mobilize data to the cloud for long-term retention or protect databases in the cloud with the same features as on-premises.



Data resiliency and availability

The EAS is a distributed volume that is protected via erasure coding (4:2) across multiple nodes, making backup data resilient to both drive and node failures. Unlike single-head deduplication devices, EAS withstands node failures with automatic failover of floating IP addresses.



Broad database/application support

EAS broadens Rubrik's support to any database or applications. For those database applications that are not included in the app-aware drop-down menu, it blindly deduplicates whatever lands on it, mimicking the behavior of traditional deduplication devices.



Tight integration with RSC

Unlike traditional deduplication target devices, which were designed to function separately from backup software (fragmented management points), EAS is tightly integrated into the overall Rubrik Security Cloud platform, using the same simple automated SLA based policy management.

CONCLUSION

Rubrik's EAS offers an innovative and automated approach to deliver high-performance ingest and instant access to data copies to cater to modern-day data protection requirements. Unlike other deduplication target solutions in the market, which have inflexible choices and associated constraints, EAS offers adaptive data reduction methods under the cover, making the sensible decision for customers across their enterprise workloads. Moreover, the tight integration with the backup engine and other services in Rubrik Security Cloud provides an unparalleled operational simplicity, empowering infrastructure agility.



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Rubrik is on a mission to secure the world's data. With Zero Trust Data Security™, we help organizations achieve business resilience against cyberattacks, malicious insiders, and operational disruptions. Rubrik Security Cloud, powered by machine learning, secures data across enterprise, cloud, and SaaS applications. We help organizations uphold data integrity, deliver data availability that withstands adverse conditions, continuously monitor data risks and threats, and restore businesses with their data when infrastructure is attacked.

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