Organizations around the world rely on EMC’s VMAX3 family to provide high performance and availability for all their critical applications. Traditionally as data volumes increased, users have to choose between growing their VMAX environment, supplementing it with some form of secondary storage, or simply deleting cold data.

In recent years, however, due to compliance regulations, explosions in data volumes and shrinking IT budgets, organizations are looking for new ways to store that secondary data so that it remains online and accessible without the high costs associated with primary storage arrays. For many organizations, the cloud provides just that type of solution and with the initial FAST.X support for CloudArray, VMAX3 users can easily move cold and secondary data into a private or public cloud environment. By connecting VMAX3 users to high-capacity cloud storage, CloudArray enables a more efficient use of high performance primary arrays while leveraging the cost efficiencies of cloud storage.

**SOLUTION OVERVIEW**

Initial FAST.X support for CloudArray provides VMAX3 users with a gateway to a cloud tier for data that no longer requires the high performance or data services of VMAX3. This cold and archive data can easily be moved from the VMAX3 array into the cloud to take advantage of cloud’s scalability and cost efficiency. Additionally, unlike many other archive solutions, CloudArray for VMAX3 connects directly to cloud storage so that archived data remains online and fully accessible at all times.

Further simplifying cloud integration with VMAX3, CloudArray employs local caching to limit the bandwidth and latency issues often associated with cloud storage. To do this, a disk-based cache stores a portion of users’ most recently accessed data locally while simultaneously storing a copy of that data in the cloud. As a result, a percentage of users’ recent data will remain accessible at local...
speeds and performance, but CloudArray can support a total cloud capacity more than 10x that of this local cache.

Whether used for archive, file or secondary data, CloudArray ensures the online accessibility and ease of management VMAX3 users have come to expect, while minimizing the cost of storing lower tier data.

THE CLOUDARRAY ADVANTAGE

FAST.X connectivity to CloudArray offers a rich set of features further enabling cloud integration and protection for VMAX3 data:

- CloudArray’s local disk caching ensures recently accessed is available at local speeds without the typical latency associated with cloud storage
- Support for over 20 different public and private cloud providers including Amazon, EMC ECS, Google Cloud, and Microsoft Azure.
- 256-bit AES encryption provides security for all data that leaves CloudArray both in-flight to and at rest in the cloud
- File and block support enables CloudArray to integrate the cloud into users’ VMAX3 environment regardless of data storage level
- Data compression and bandwidth scheduling reduce cloud capacity demands and limit network impact

LOOKING AHEAD

While initial FAST.X support for CloudArray enables customers to begin leveraging the efficiencies of cloud storage for their VMAX3 data, this is just the first step towards a fully cloud integrated VMAX3 storage tier. Moving forward, CloudArray and its capabilities will become a more comprehensive part of VMAX3 and extend automated service level provisioning and VMAX3’s powerful data services to the cloud.

Ultimately, the integration of CloudArray with VMAX3 will create a fully cloud-integrated high performance storage solution, run from a single management interface. With this integration and the extension of VMAX3’s SLO provisioning planned across every storage level from flash to the cloud, VMAX3 will continue to be the premier platform for enterprise storage - optimizing storage efficiency, reducing costs, and simplifying management across and beyond the data center.

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