Hyperscale Archive/Cold Data Landscape

Presented By

Lee Prewitt, Principal, Microsoft Shashidhar Joshi, Principal, Microsoft





Storing EBs of Data in the Cloud









Source: Data Age 2025: IDC

Source: Data Age 2025, sponsored by Seagate with data from IDC Global DataSphere, Nov 2018



- Archive Storage is part of this Growth
- Just within Azure, Archive Storage operates at massive scale
 - EBs of Data
 - Trillions of Objects
 - Spread across 100's of Data Centers across the Globe
 - Billions of Requests (Monthly)







Benefits with Cloud Storage

- Choose storage based on your need
- End to End Data Protection
- Geo, Regional and Zonal redundancies
- Management and Monitoring Tools
- Scale up and down as needed
- High Availability and Resiliency

Type of storage account	Supported redundancy configurations	Supported values for the kind parameter	Supported values for the sku or SkuName parameter
Standard general- purpose v2	LRS / GRS / RA-GRS / ZRS / GZRS / RA-GZRS	StorageV2	Standard_LRS / Standard_GRS / Standard_RAGRS/ Standard_ZRS / Standard_GZRS / Standard_RAGZRS
Premium block blobs	LRS / ZRS	BlockBlobStorage	Premium_LRS / Premium_ZRS
Premium file shares	LRS / ZRS	FileStorage	Premium_LRS / Premium_ZRS
Premium page blobs	LRS	StorageV2	Premium_LRS
Legacy standard general- purpose v1	LRS / GRS / RA-GRS	Storage	Standard_LRS / Standard_GRS / Standard_RAGRS
Legacy blob storage	LRS / GRS / RA-GRS	BlobStorage	Standard_LRS / Standard_GRS / Standard_RAGRS



Customer can

- Set up Access Tier based on need
- Change Blob Tier Settings
- Lifecycle Management Policies
- Geo, Regional and Zonal redundancies

	Hot tier	Cool tier	Cold tier	Archive tier
Availability	99.9%	99%	99%	99%
Availability (RA-GRS reads)	99.99%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%
Usage charges	Higher storage costs, but lower access and transaction costs	Lower storage costs, but higher access and transaction costs	Lower storage costs, but higher access and transaction costs	Lowest storage costs, but highest access, and transaction costs
Minimum recommended data retention period	N/A	30 days ¹	90 days ¹	180 days
Latency (Time to first byte)	Milliseconds	Milliseconds	Milliseconds	Hours ²
Supported redundancy configurations	All	All	All	LRS, GRS, and RA-GRS ³ only



Observations from Workload

- Writes dominate
- Reads are infrequent
- Small reads require low latency random access
- Large reads require good throughput
- Archive Storage system needs dynamic provisioning to account for workload variances

Challenges with current storage technologies

- Mechanical overheads lead to latencies
- Environmental conditions limit deployment capabilities
- Uncertainty with roadmaps, capacities and costs
- Need for media migrations at EOL
- Opportunity for new storage technologies

