

CASE STUDY

Engineering Consulting Firm Modernizes Data Archive for Easy, Scalable Disaster Recovery

Reliable, secure cloud storage enabled DLZ engineers, architects, planners, and technical support staff to continue to innovate and grow their firm.

Overview

DLZ is an architectural, engineering, and surveying consultancy that manages large-scale transportation, public building, and water projects across 30+ offices. Founded over 100 years ago, the firm's rapid growth required shifting from outdated on-premises data storage to the cloud. Our cloud storage gave DLZ the cost-effective resilience and modern archiving and disaster recovery capabilities it needed—without compromising performance.

Challenges

Before Wasabi, DLZ saved massive LiDAR scan data and other industrial engineering project data in two mirrored on-premises NetApp appliances. When storage space ran low, IT burned older projects to 8 TB drives and stored them on a shelf.

- **Insufficient storage capacity** — With 40% growth in five years, on-premises data storage couldn't keep up.
- **Business continuity and recovery risks** — A disaster or massive power failure on-site could obliterate the firm's data or take it offline for days.
- **Backup access difficulties** — Office 365 backups, which were retained long-term for compliance, weren't easily recoverable.



USE CASE:

- Backup & recovery
- Disaster Recovery
- Active Archiving
- Cyber Resilience

INDUSTRY:

- Engineering
- Industrial

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Both the storage and the pricing have been really good. There are different tiers of Azure that you can get for hot and cool storage, but we don't have to worry about that with you guys.

— John Seaver, Director of IT – DLZ

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We back up Outlook mailboxes, SharePoint, Teams, and more to Wasabi. It's quick and easy. There's not a lot of care and feeding that goes into it once it's set up. It just works.

— Scott Carter, IT Coordinator – DLZ

Solutions

DLZ chose Ctera to provide AI-based and edge cloud services and Ctera supported the firm's choice of Wasabi for cloud data storage. NetApp data and cold archive data to the cloud. The firm also utilizes Veeam to back up Office 365 and SharePoint data and stores it securely in Wasabi. Wasabi was recently set up as a secondary mirror for DLZ's primary project data for the entirety of the company, enhancing business continuity – with that more than half a petabyte of storage in all three storage pools.

- **Offsite backup and archive storage** – Wasabi gives DLZ secure, accessible cloud storage that isn't at risk like on-premises solutions.
- **Scalable capacity** – Wasabi cloud storage can accommodate all of the firm's massive LiDAR data files and growing storage needs.
- **Cloud mirroring for cyber resilience** – While the firm originally set Azure as the primary target for project data storage, Wasabi serves as a reliable and cost-effective secondary mirrored target via Panzura.

Results

Wasabi Hot Cloud Storage enabled DLZ to eliminate insufficient on-premises NetApp data storage appliances, set up secure, reliable backups of Office 365 data, and add an extra layer of resiliency by making Wasabi a secondary target for mirroring vital data.

Key outcomes:

- **Enhanced resiliency** – Storing multiple copies of data in the cloud through mirroring creates redundancy, which helps keep DLZ resilient.
- **Reliable recovery capabilities** – When disaster strikes, DLZ will be able to recover data quickly from our cloud storage.
- **Cost savings** – Because we don't charge egress fees, DLZ can store and access large LiDAR files and other essential company data without breaking its budget.

The firm is now considering making Azure its secondary cloud mirroring storage target and Wasabi the primary target. IT leaders estimate they'll save thousands of dollars every month in egress fees.

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Without Wasabi, we could probably do a lot of the same stuff by going to Amazon or Google. It would just cost more.

— John Seaver, Director of IT – DLZ

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Before we moved the LiDAR data to Wasabi, I was worried the speed might not satisfy the industrial team's requirements, but that proved to be a non-issue. I've had zero complaints.

— John Seaver, Director of IT – DLZ