



# Enterprise and Cloud Storage

## Data Migration and Planned Outage Headaches

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### Biography

*Bill Basinas is Senior Director of Product Marketing at Infinidat (<https://www.infinidat.com>), a Lenovo company, and has been in the storage industry since 1994. Experienced and deeply knowledgeable in all aspects of primary and secondary storage platforms and associated data protection and cyber storage protection technologies.*

*Having worked for EMC, HPE, Legato and Avamar (both acquired by EMC) and a number of other startup companies in technical/engineering, sales and marketing, in manager and individual contributor roles, Bill brings a unique understanding of technology and marketing to the storage industry.*

*Bill blogs at <https://www.infinidat.com/en/blog>*

**Keywords** Enterprise, Storage, Data migration, Service outage, Return on Investment (ROI), Data centres  
**Paper type** Opinion

### Abstract

*Data migration has long been one of the most disruptive and resource-intensive challenges facing enterprise IT organizations. Traditional heterogeneous storage migrations typically require planned downtime to accommodate host-side reconfiguration activities, including volume remapping, path updates, and system reboots necessary for recognizing new storage resources. These requirements introduce operational risk, increase administrative complexity, and can negatively impact business continuity. In this article, the author examines the limitations of conventional migration methodologies and presents an alternative approach developed to minimize or eliminate service interruptions during storage transitions.*

### Introduction

Organizations face significant challenges when migrating data across storage environments, with planned downtime representing one of the most persistent obstacles. In heterogeneous migration scenarios, where data is moved between different storage platforms, host-side interventions have traditionally been required to complete the transition. These actions often include server reboots, volume remapping, and storage path reconfiguration to ensure that the new storage



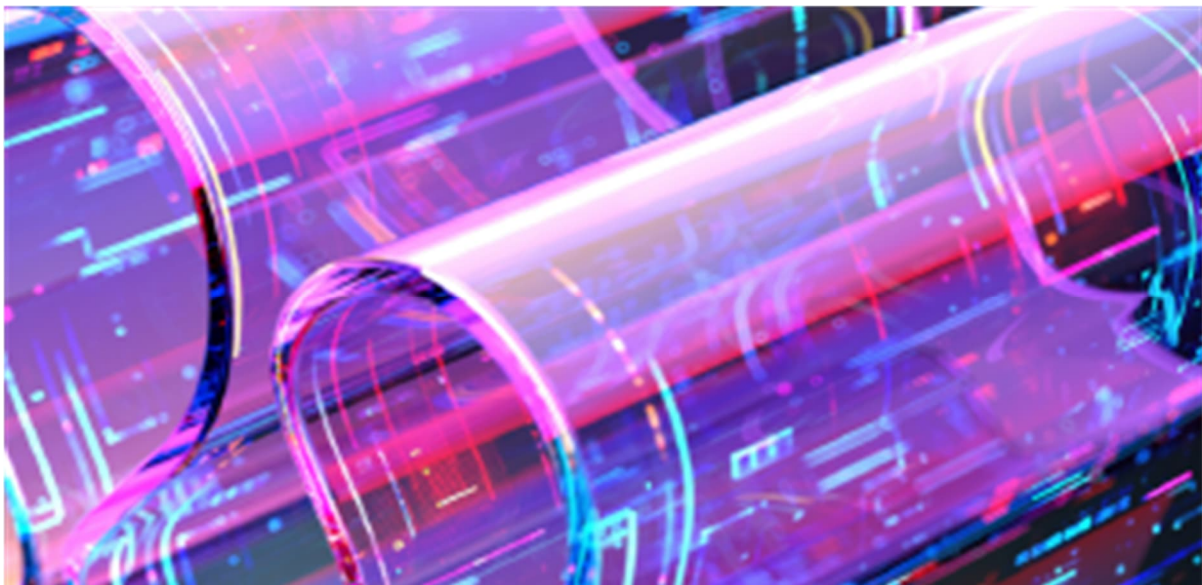
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resources are properly recognized and accessed by connected hosts. As a result, organizations must carefully coordinate maintenance windows, introducing operational complexity and potential disruption to business-critical applications.

Infinidat addresses these challenges through its Active/Active Data Migration (AADM) capability, which enables non-disruptive data movement between InfiniBox® systems. Built on the Active/Active replication functionality of InfuzeOS™, AADM leverages a fully active-active architecture to facilitate seamless, background data migration while applications and storage systems remain operational. By utilizing native platform capabilities designed for both data mobility and enterprise availability, organizations can migrate data without planned downtime or service interruption. Active/Active replication is included as part of the standard InfuzeOS™ feature set and can be enabled when two systems are configured as an active-active pair, providing the foundation for transparent and efficient storage modernization initiatives.

The process becomes even more streamlined during storage refreshes and platform upgrades. When a new InfiniBox system is deployed, it can be rapidly configured using the existing InfiniBox environment as a template, significantly reducing implementation time and complexity. Infinidat works closely with customers to prepare the environment, leveraging built-in orchestration capabilities to coordinate and automate the migration workflow. Once initiated, data is transferred transparently in the background while hosts continue to access storage without any changes to application behaviour or data paths. At the completion of the migration, the original array can be decommissioned without requiring host reconfiguration or downtime, as the active-active architecture maintains a consistent storage presentation throughout the process. This approach substantially reduces operational effort, often saving organizations hundreds or even thousands of administrative hours. While many customers quickly become self-sufficient after observing a few migrations, Infinidat's teams remain available to provide guidance, monitoring, and operational support whenever needed.





### **Heterogeneous data migration**

The second option, which presents the biggest challenge, is migration between different storage systems from different vendors – heterogeneous data migration. There are numerous reasons why that is the case, but nonetheless, it poses technical challenges and requires planned outages, though not major ones. These challenges make the process much more difficult to manage and increase the overall migration timelines to accommodate maintenance windows. What could take days, or weeks, stretches into months, typically driven by maintenance windows to cut over hosts to the new storage targets.

At Infinidat, minimizing operational disruption is a core design principle, reflecting our commitment to delivering 100% availability for enterprise storage environments. While planned outages can often be scheduled and managed effectively, they still introduce risk, consume valuable administrative resources, and impact business operations. Recognizing that even planned downtime represents an unnecessary burden, Infinidat developed an innovative migration approach that eliminates the traditional host cutover process. This capability removes the need for server-side actions – such as reboots or manual host reconfiguration – during migrations to a new third-party storage platform, enabling organizations to complete storage transitions without service interruption.



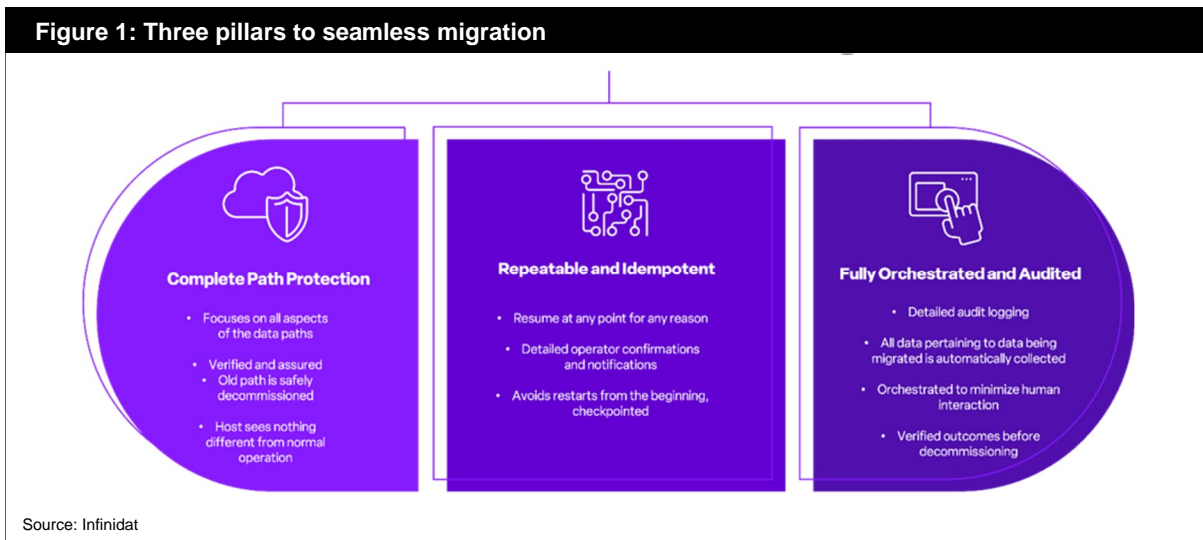
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As part of this process, we seamlessly insert an appliance into your fabric that is part of this architecture. It is augmented with all the orchestration that our native tools provide. This is a game-changer. We estimate this can reduce migration project timelines by 8X-10X!

Many organizations delay or avoid adopting new storage platforms due to the complexity, risk, and operational effort traditionally associated with data migration, even when a transition would provide significant technical or economic benefits. To address this challenge, Infinidat extended the principles and capabilities that underpin its native, in-family migration technologies to heterogeneous storage environments. The result is a streamlined, fully orchestrated migration framework designed to simplify cross-platform data movement. Built upon three core operational pillars, this approach reduces complexity, minimizes disruption, and enables organizations to migrate to new storage platforms with greater confidence and efficiency.

The pillars are:

1. Complete Path Protection
2. Repeatable and Idempotent
3. Transparent and Orchestrated



In case you are wondering what “idempotent” means, according to a Wikipedia definition<sup>1</sup>, an idempotent operation is one that can be executed multiple times without changing the result or the system state beyond the very first application. Whether you do it once or a hundred times, the final outcome remains exactly the same.

We have extended these functions to encompass seamless heterogeneous data migration from any competitive platform. Infinidat is a white glove services



company, so you are never left to fend for yourself. There are other aspects to heterogeneous data migration from competitive arrays, and our services and support organizations are right there with you before, during, and after the migration. That is just what we do and what enterprise trust is all about.

Given the current storage market, this is extremely important today. We are driving economic value past just the solutions we provide, which, on their own, create an overwhelming set of cost savings for our customers.

According to an IDC Business Value Study<sup>2</sup>, interviews with Global Fortune 500 companies and large enterprise Infinidat customers revealed significant business benefits, including an 8.7-month payback period, a 140% return on investment over three years, and a 58% reduction in total cost of ownership (TCO) compared to customers' previous storage vendors. These are just a few of the cost-saving advantages highlighted in the IDC study.

These outcomes are even more compelling in light of the unprecedented increase in the cost of silicon storage components. Infinidat continues to deliver exceptional value through both its ultra-high-performance all-flash solutions and high-performance hybrid enterprise storage systems. With the right storage platform for every workload, Infinidat helps organizations maximize their IT investments while benefiting from industry-leading support and services that further enhance the value of their storage infrastructure.

### In conclusion

Data migration remains one of the most critical and challenging aspects of enterprise IT modernization. For years, organizations have accepted planned downtime, lengthy project timelines, and operational complexity as unavoidable parts of moving data between storage platforms. However, as businesses become increasingly dependent on continuous access to data and applications, those traditional approaches are no longer sustainable.

Ultimately, successful data migration should be measured not only by moving data from one platform to another, but by how efficiently and transparently that transition occurs. As storage environments continue to evolve, solutions that prioritize availability, simplicity, and operational efficiency will play an increasingly important role in helping enterprises modernize infrastructure, maximize technology investments, and maintain business continuity throughout the process.

#### Reference

- <sup>1</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idempotence>
- <sup>2</sup> Sliwa, C. and Szurley, M. (January 2026), *The Business Value of Infinidat InfiniBox Solutions*, IDC. Available at: <https://www.infinidat.com/en/resource-pdfs/idc-business-value-snapshot-business-value-infinidat-infinibox.pdf>