How Compagnie des Alpes protects its most critical resources from major disasters at the lowest cost with AWS Elastic Disaster Recovery

aws partner network

Summary

Compagnie des Alpes (CDA) prioritizes protecting its data and ensuring the availability of its applications. Any outage or disruption can impact the quality of its services and, therefore, customer satisfaction. Unfortunately, the risk of outages is a fact of life for technical infrastructure.

Challenge

CDA wanted a solution in place that would protect against losing data and allow them to recover quickly in the event of an outage. They needed to meet goals around maximum loss of data, or "Recovery Point Objective" (RPO), and maximum recovery time, or "Recovery Time Objective" (RTO). The solution also needed to be cost effective, which was particularly important during the pandemic for a company in the tourism industry.

Why Amazon Web Services (AWS)?

Typically, a business recovery plan consists of duplicating resources, such as adding a second data center and virtual infrastructure. This is expensive and these resources are rarely used, except during failover of the production environment.

CDA wanted a better solution that would allow them to only pay for resources that are actually used. The cloud "pay as you go" model was appealing. And the fact that AWS only invoices for storage used was a plus.

The ATYOS Solution

AWS Elastic Disaster Recovery (CloudEndure Disaster Recovery) is a flexible solution for protecting Windows and Linux servers, whether physical or virtual. Data is replicated on AWS with a near-zero RPO.

Should a disaster arise, an administrator can reboot the virtual machines on AWS. Moreover, AWS Elastic Disaster Recovery facilitates non-disruptive testing within isolated cloud environments.

Since it was founded in 1989, Compagnie des Alpes (CDA) has established itself as an uncontested leader in the leisure industry. Today, the Group operates 10 prestigious ski resorts and 12 renowned leisure parks, using an integrated approach that combines operational excellence and quality to achieve the Very High Satisfaction of its customers but also the local communities in which it is present. Compagnie des Alpes also exports its expertise, offering consulting and assistance services to projects in diverse regions around the world.

Compagnie des Alpes has, in addition, leveraged its expertise to adapt to changing patterns of consumption: an active force in the renovation of mountain lodging, it has also developed a network of real estate agencies, is developing its own thematic hotels adjacent to its parks with nationwide appeal and, since 2018, is the number 1 tour operator specializing in the online sale of ski holiday packages in France.

Over the course of the financial year ended September 30, 2021, which was heavily impacted by the health crisis, the Group welcomed more than 5 million guests and generated sales of €240.6 million.

With nearly 5,000 employees, Compagnie des Alpes works with its partners to build projects that generate unique experiences, the opposite of a standardized concept. Exceptional leisure activities for everyone.

Results

ATYOS seamlessly integrated AWS Elastic Disaster Recovery into CDA's existing infrastructure using AWS CloudFormation's infrastructure-as-code model to automate the deployment of the platform.
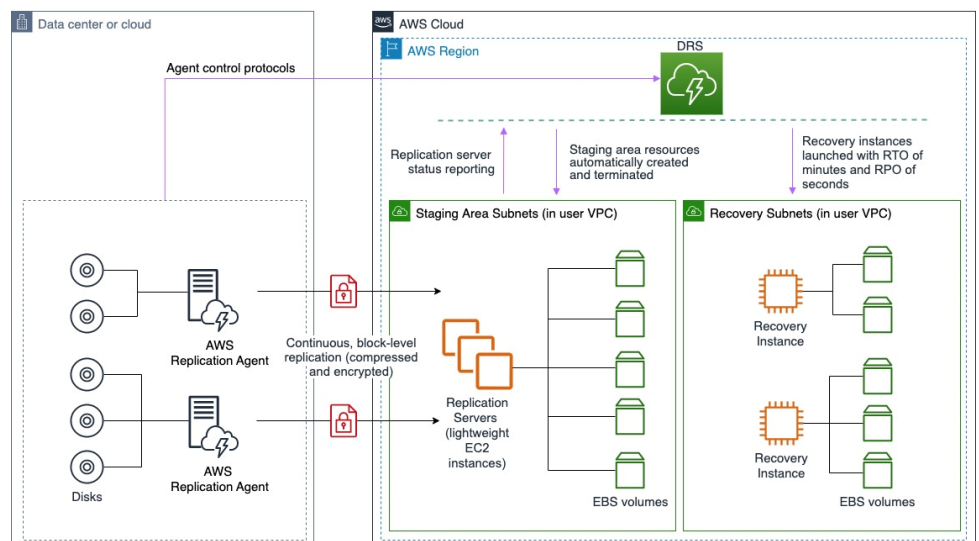
AWS Elastic Disaster Recovery has had virtually no impact on operational costs in the production environment. In addition, the production environment capacity and performance were unaffected.

AWS Elastic Disaster Recovery is flexible, allowing CDA to add or remove source servers as needed. There are multiple storage options available, allowing CDA the choice of integrating its VMware workloads into one or more storage services.

Security is the highest priority at AWS. Replicated data was encrypted in transit using TLS 1.2, and transferred directly from source servers to AWS. There is also an option for data to be encrypted at rest.

The costs incurred have been consistent with projected estimates, and much lower than comparable solutions available on the market.

Twenty-one machines were initially protected with this system, comprising 9 TB of data. Based on this initial success, the AWS Elastic Disaster Recovery solution was expanded to include 87 machines critical to CDA, for a total of 30 TB of storage.