



RECOVERY IN HOURS OR MINUTES, NOT DAYS OR WEEKS

Prior to implementing VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery, Reily Foods Company was using data centers in New Orleans and Knoxville, TN as DR sites for each other.

BEFORE—DR BETWEEN TWO SITES

Premium data center equipment was maintained at both DR locations in the event of a disaster. Recognition grew that maintaining this equipment on an aggressive refresh cycle was not cost efficient for Reily Foods.

NOW—CLOUD-BASED DR

Now Reily Foods uses VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery for protection, which integrates with existing VMware infrastructure, and uses VMware Cloud on AWS (VMC on AWS) as the failover target.

COST CONTROL & PREDICTABILITY

Reily Foods continually assesses which workloads should be enabled for DR and at what RPO to ensure that operations are protected while also keeping costs predictable. Using tiers of DR for various workloads gives Reily Foods the ability to assign the appropriate and cost-effective protection against a disaster.

Reily Foods Uses VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery to Protect IT Operations at the Southern Foodmaker

New Orleans-based Reily Foods Company is using VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery to protect the business that makes such food favorites as Blue Plate mayonnaise. According to Ben Cooper, Director of Infrastructure and Security at Reily Foods, “Because it’s built on VMware, which I’ve used for years, to me VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery is tried, true and tested. Hopefully, I never have to turn these things on. But it’s nice to know that VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery is ready. Our desire is to move to an OpEx spending model and VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery checked all the boxes right from the start.”

While Reily Foods is based in New Orleans, the company’s data center now operates primarily in another Southern city, Knoxville, Tennessee. “After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, our compute infrastructure was moved to a really nice data center in the middle of a manufacturing plant,” said Cooper. “But you know, disasters come in different flavors. It could be a fire. It could be a tornado. It could be a train car derailment, and we have train tracks running near our manufacturing site.”

Initially, Reily Foods disaster recovery (DR) strategy was to use the New Orleans and Knoxville facilities as DR locations for each other. Reily Foods quickly realized that they didn’t want to keep investing in premium data center hardware that would only be used in a disaster. Add to that the network complexity and capacity needed between sites and momentum started to build for a cloud-based solution. Cooper said, “And that’s when I found VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery.”

Familiar Territory

Ben Cooper is a VMware expert user. “I have been using vSphere since 2009, so I have some history with it and love it. I wouldn’t use anything else for virtualization,” Cooper said. Based on his experience with the battle-tested reliability and efficiency of vSphere, Cooper gave VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery a try.

It helped that Reily Foods was using Dell server hardware and EMC storage products, even prior to Dell’s acquisition of EMC and through that transaction VMware. “It was almost like somebody looked at what I

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Ben Cooper, Director of Infrastructure & Security, Reily Foods Company

At a Glance

- Industry—Food & beverage products
- Size—700
- Location—United States

Business needs

- Disaster recovery assurance
- Cloud-based
- Integration with existing VMware infrastructure

Why Choose VMware

- Leverage existing staff skills
- Anticipated lower operational costs
- Integrates with related technologies already in use at Reily Foods

VMware Cloud Disaster

Recovery is a ransomware and disaster recovery solution. For product information, including how to subscribe, click [HERE](#)

was using and merged those companies together,” said Cooper. And Cooper was familiar with the security products offered by Carbon Black, prior to that company being acquired by VMware. VMware Ransomware Recovery for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery is available as an add-on, and in part uses the Carbon Black technology with which Cooper was already familiar.

Although Reily Foods is a heavy user of Microsoft Azure cloud services, Cooper was also familiar with Amazon Web Services (AWS). VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery uses VMware Cloud on AWS (VMC on AWS) to enable cloud-based disaster recovery. To diversify Reily Foods ecosystem for resiliency, Cooper looked at several other public cloud providers. “VMC on AWS seemed to be a better fit.” After finding out that several other technology products used by Reily Foods also utilized AWS, “that kind of made the decision for us,” said Cooper. The whole disaster recovery project came together for Reily Foods with familiar, trusted, reliable products.

Ransomware Protection is Available

“Knowing that I have copies of my infrastructure in the cloud, and that I have the capability to add ransomware recovery in the future is a plus,” said Cooper. “I like the strategy of having many copies of the infrastructure available because it may not be known that there is ransomware in the environment for a long period of time. Getting back to a known good state means I might have to go back further than I thought,” Cooper said.

Flexible protection tiers

Reily Foods is at the beginning of their disaster recovery protection journey. As experienced cloud computing users, they know to add capacity judiciously to avoid first-month sticker shock. Cooper said, “I’m just seeing how much storage is used. What I foresee is having different protection groups. Some will get a snapshot once a day. Some will get two snapshots per day and ramp up from there. Right now, some workloads are getting one snapshot per hour.”

Reily Foods knows that their critical infrastructure can be served by an RPO (Recovery Point Objective) as low as 30 minutes. Because frequent snapshots increase storage needs, Cooper is being deliberate in his approach.

Wrapping up, Cooper said, “So far, it’s a great solution that could help a lot of people who are looking to do what we did, which is save money on disaster recovery. We leverage the cloud OpEx model and save money by avoiding an ongoing investment in expensive on-premises equipment that will only be used in the off chance of a disaster.”

About Reily Foods

Reily Foods is a 5th-generation, family-owned food and beverage company. Since 1902, they’ve helped to define the food and beverage flavors of the American South. Reily Foods is proud of their New Orleans heritage, which continues to shape the way they make their products and the way they believe in doing business.

