

# AMERICA FIRST CREDIT UNION BREAKS DOWN MAINFRAME DATA SILOS WITH MODEL9 AND COHESITY

Leading credit union modernizes its mainframe, transitions to a cloud data-management solution

## OVERVIEW

America First Credit Union, headquartered in Riverdale, Utah, is a top-10 U.S. credit union, with over a million members and total assets of \$11.7 billion.

Built around its mainframe, the credit union wanted to reduce its dependency on costly Virtual Tape Systems (VTS). Having already used Cohesity to consolidate other data silos, America First Credit Union selected Model9 to bring mainframe data into a unified Cohesity environment.

The Model9 software solution modernized and unified the credit union's data management operations, allowed removal of IBM backup and tape-management software DFSMSHsm and DFSMSrmm (also known as HSM and RMM), and reduced monthly workload license charges.



*"Our experience in working with Model9 was very positive. Their cloud data management solution is an exciting new development in modernizing legacy mainframe storage management."*

- Scott Ellis, SVP Information Systems

*"I highly encourage anyone at the Virtual Tape Systems (VTS) upgrade crossroads to take a serious look at Model9's cloud data management solution."*

- Kent Swenson, Manager Enterprise Systems



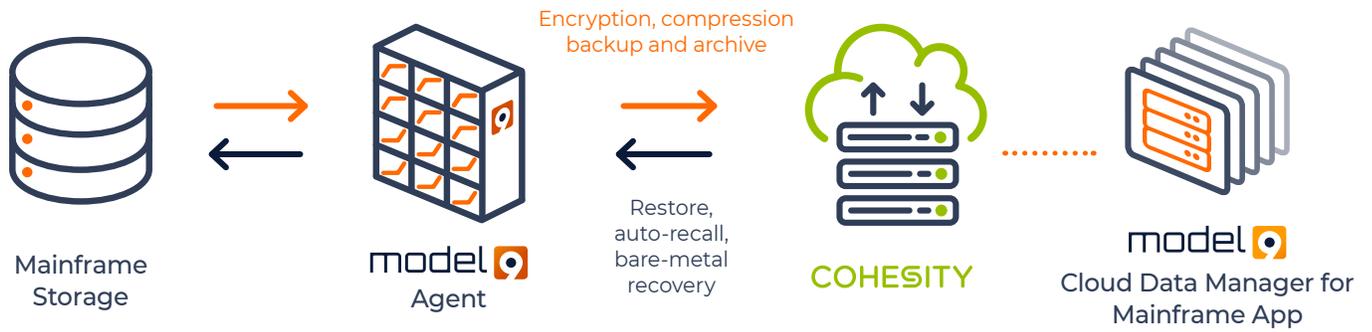
## CHALLENGE

America First Credit Union's mainframe supports core member-service functions. Nearing the end of IBM TS7720 virtual tape library support, used for production workload processing and disaster recovery (DR), the credit union faced a critical decision. In addition, the organization hoped to find a less expensive alternative to complex backup and tape-management applications requiring legacy mainframe skills.

Lastly, the credit union wanted to reduce MSU charges incurred by mainframe storage-management operations.

## THE SOLUTION

In discussions among America First Credit Union, Model9, and Sirius Computer Solutions (Model9's U.S. channel partner), the credit union favored consolidating mainframe backup and archive from a VTS solution to the Cohesity data management platform. Cohesity provided a proven, robust solution with a rich feature set that is secure and efficient to manage. Architecturally, Cohesity's ease of replication, simplified DR, plug-and-play scalability, and file and object services partnered well with Model9. To accelerate the transition away from tape use in the credit union's applications, the team used SMS to redirect new VTS dataset allocations to a DASD storage group that Model9 policies archived using Cohesity's multi-protocol ingest technology. Existing volume backup processes were replaced with Model9 backup policies. Application code and JCL did not change. Existing VTS datasets were converted to Model9 by either recalling HSM migrated datasets or copying VTS datasets to DASD and redirecting them to Model9 for Cohesity archival.



*“As a younger mainframer, the continued reliance on virtual tape was a bit confusing to me. Model9 turns this continued requirement on its head with a bold, modern approach and delivers fully on their promises.”*

- Gerard Howells, Mainframe Systems Programmer



## SOLUTION BENEFITS

- Modernized the company’s data infrastructure and helped transition to a cloud platform
- Eliminated expensive, proprietary VTS hardware and mainframe-specific data silos, making it possible to store and manage both mainframe and distributed data in a single platform
- Model9’s user-friendly web management interface retired the costly DFSMShsm and DFSMSrmm software products and cut the need for time-consuming VTS-related OAM configuration, as well as the need for legacy tape technology skills

- Reduced billable MSU consumption from backup and space management operations
- Utilized Cohesity’s industry-leading deduplication capabilities to significantly reduce data footprint, lowering costs, and reducing risk

## RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

- Model9’s vendor-agnostic flexibility enabled America First Credit Union to leverage their platform of choice - Cohesity, for use with mainframe data
- Mainframe modernization and monthly license charge savings were achieved



*“As a mainframe dinosaur, fully engulfed in HSM, SMS and the tape world, I was skeptical about making Model9 replace our tape usage. The “cloud” was scary to me. But as I posed questions to the geniuses at Model9, I was quickly converted to their way of thinking for storage management, and had a solution for each dilemma I brought up. No regrets moving forward.”*

- Tom Knowles, Mainframe Systems Programmer



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

[model9.io](http://model9.io) | [cohesity.com](http://cohesity.com)

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