



The mainframe data from tapes is “migrated” to the **DataArk Appliance** by creating virtual tapes that are stored in one of three optional data storage subsystems supported by the appliance, namely: NAS disk storage, high-density magnetic tapes, or the cloud.

While a storage appliance is not a new concept, placing the mainframe System Catalog, TMS database, and Virtual Tape storage management on the appliance device is new and provides complete mainframe tape storage virtualization to applications hosted on midrange platforms.

With the **DataArk Appliance** the connection between application and legacy tape data is raised to the level of the Virtual Tape (or Dataset) access protocol, thus allowing maximum flexibility with respect to storage implementation, optimization, security, and upgrading.

## Migration of Tape Archives to the Cloud

Many vendors are now offering “cloud computing” services which allow a company to purchase machine cycles and storage *on demand*. One of the most prominent of these offerings is the *Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2)* (<http://aws.amazon.com>). One of the Amazon offerings, S3, allows to store data in a secure and replicated way.

Many software companies are offering their applications as pre-configured virtual images for running in the

Amazon cloud. Micro Focus offers a cloud solution for Mainframe Migration (<http://cloudservices.microfocus.com/main/default.aspx/MFECS/MFECS.html>). In addition to the software platform, Micro Focus offers runtime monitoring as it is found in an IBM data center.

Data Strategies has created a cloud solution for archiving legacy tape data. This consists of a special file handler which translates Cobol file operations into Web service requests to the cloud and software component running on an instance of the Micro Focus Enterprise Server in the cloud which processes those requests against archive data stored in S3 on the cloud.

The legacy data is migrated originally to the cloud via the Data Strategies’ Data Migration Service for Mainframe Modernization (DMSMM).

A cloud specific extension to the standard service is the ability to load the migrated data onto bulk devices such as disk or tape for use in the Amazon Import/Export service. This allows data to be sent to Amazon data centers on specified devices for bulk loading directly on their network thereby avoiding the cost of loading over the wire.

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