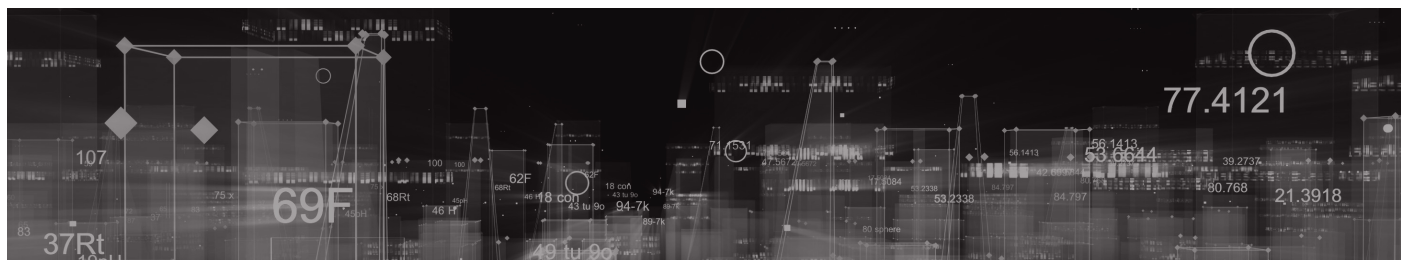


SkiBig3 Replaces Hyper-V with **VergeIO** Instead of VMware

When Mitch Matula joined SkiBig3 as IT Manager, his first task was to replace Hyper-V with more scalable and cost-effective data center infrastructure software. They were also looking for a solution that provided enhanced data protection to make the organization more resilient to hardware failures or data loss events like ransomware. The company looked at VMware and the Public Cloud as potential alternatives but eventually selected Verge.IO.



About SkiBig3

SkiBig3 works for three ski resorts in Banff National Park; Banff Sunshine, the Lake Louise Ski Resort, and Mt. Norquay. SkiBig3 is dedicated to showcasing everything this winter destination has to offer. They focus on making organizing and booking a winter ski vacation to Banff easy and stress-free. That means the IT systems that support the SkiBig3 team have to work flawlessly.

Why VergeIO Instead of VMware or Public Cloud?

Because of his experience with VergeIO, Mitch went to the SkiBig3 Board with a proposal to move off of Hyper-V to VergeOS. The Board asked him why he wasn't considering VMware. He explained that VergeOS is a hardened environment with a more robust snapshot capability. VergeOS snapshots are immutable and don't impact performance like VMware snapshots do. Using VergeOS, Mitch can retain snapshots indefinitely, a key ingredient in recovery from ransomware attacks or accidental data deletion by users. Also, VergeOS was significantly less expensive than VMware.

The Board also asked him to consider using the Public Cloud. His research indicated that a one-year software license of VergeOS was less than one month of using a Public Cloud provider. The Public Cloud provider also had snapshot issues similar to VMware's limitations. Additionally, most cloud providers' snapshot functions are complete copies, not delta changes, which would further increase his monthly cost.

The Board asked Mitch to bring in external consultants to compare VMware to VergeOS. Ultimately, VergeOS was selected over VMware and the Public Cloud options because it provided better capabilities and better data resiliency at a lower cost. SkiBig3 is confident that VergeOS is a platform that will last for years, improve its data resiliency, and help the organization provide Banff area visitors with the promised stress-free vacation experience.

Mitch has used VMware in past jobs and is VMware certified. He said, "VMware is so complex, you must be certified to have a chance of operating it. VergeOS, by comparison, is so easy to use you can figure out most tasks by clicking around in the GUI or going through the self-paced training on the VergeIO website. It is just one package instead of a never-ending list of add-ons." Mitch is also impressed by VergeIO's Customer Success team. "They are always available and quick to jump in to help resolve any issues that arise, even if it isn't a problem with VergeOS," he added.

About The Installation

Another advantage of using VergeOS is that SkiBig3 could easily start small and grow. The initial installation is a two-node cluster using flash drives. It supports all their infrastructure services like Active Directory, DNS, firewall, etc. It also supports several Windows applications based on MS SQL.

Those MSSQL applications are mission-critical. SkiBig3 sells passes to all three mountains, and the systems at the bottom of the runs verify the passes. Customers can't get on the lift if those applications are not running, and that would not create the stress-free environment that SkiBig3 promises its customers. Performance is also crucial since the applications can service hundreds of validations per hour on a busy ski day. VergeOS provides complete application availability and data protection.

Application availability is all handled by VergeOS. If one of the nodes fails, the VMs can start seamlessly on another node. Mitch uses VergeOS snapshots for data protection, taking a snapshot every hour and retaining a daily snapshot for one month. He also uses Veeam to back up those snapshots for longer-term retention.

The goal for this coming year is to add a disaster recovery site. They will leverage VergeIO's global inline deduplication and replication to rapidly move data to a remote site.

Mitch's first month at SkiBig3 was challenging, but now with VergeOS in place, he has a platform that protects the organization and can scale quickly to meet the organization's continued growth.