

SOLUTION BRIEF

Unified Storage for Workloads

Set up your business for success with flexible, efficient Pure Storage® FlashArray™.

How do you take the day-to-day management of your IT infrastructure to the next level and keep your team innovating? Modern, efficient, uncomplicated storage solutions are critical to ongoing success. Data growth, new applications, and limited IT budgets can threaten your progress, especially when key information lives in siloed storage systems, is hard to access, and is available only to select users and platforms. Point solutions that address specific user or workload needs can leave you with a data center full of expensive, underutilized systems. They can also keep data fragmented with each silo requiring its own management, policies, and management tools. All of this can reduce the value of your data and increase the burden on IT teams that manage it.

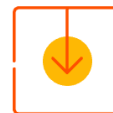
Unified Block and File Storage with FlashArray

Pure Storage FlashArray helps you meet today's demands for business agility with data services that eliminate data silos by consolidating your data—including block and file data—on a single powerful, reliable, unified platform. FlashArray offers true multi-protocol access and global data reduction across a shared storage pool, with the simplicity and stability you've come to expect from Pure Storage. FlashArray//X™ is optimized for performance, and FlashArray//XL™ takes it a step further for the most demanding applications and large-scale virtualized environments. FlashArray//C™ is optimized for capacity, making it ideal for use cases such as data protection and lower-demand workloads like testing and development. You can move workloads, blocks, and files to and from FlashArray//X to meet short-or long-term higher demands. With this flexibility and efficiency, your IT department can eliminate data silos that fragment storage capacity, stymie collaboration, and hinder your ability to respond to changing business needs. At the same time, unified storage reduces the complexity that comes from having to manage multiple platforms, each with different user experiences, APIs, and interoperability challenges.



Unified for Block and File

- Future-proof business for growth
- Eliminate pain points that add complexity and cost
- Unlock siloed data to maximize value



Proven Technology

- Data reduction for maximum efficiency
- Always-on, at-rest encryption.



Complete Control

- Same experience for block, file, on-premises, and cloud data
- Cloud-based Pure1® dashboard.
- Always-on operations.



Figure 1. The FlashArray family of solutions from Pure Storage

Organizations using FlashArray for critical business services such as databases can use the same FlashArray for home directories, file shares, and other file storage needs. The unified storage approach found in FlashArray particularly benefits business services that are primarily block-based but have associated file data. For example, SAP and SQL databases are built with block storage but store log files in a file system. Another example: Virtual machines hosted on block storage that require file storage for databases, user profiles, directories, and more, can host all this data across a single FlashArray.

Case Study: MetroGas

MetroGas is an excellent example of increasing IT agility by having common data services across a FlashArray fleet. A large gas distributor in Argentina, MetroGas needed to revamp their storage infrastructure to address changes in regulations and modernize for digital transformation. MetroGas was also facing rising customer expectations and the need to protect critical network and customer data from cyberattacks and outages.

The flexibility to shift data workloads between our FlashArray//X and FlashArray//C is huge. No matter what happens with regulations or customer needs, we can optimize our data processes using the best array for the job.

Oscar Alarcón Rodríguez, Director of Infrastructure, MetroGas

New regulations required utilities to process customer invoices monthly rather than once every two months. The company could either update their storage or spend twice as long processing invoices. MetroGas deployed a FlashArray//X to support billing and other day-to-day customer workloads. Then they added a large FlashArray//C60 to support their core processes like SAP HANA. On an everyday basis, the FlashArray//C provides enough performance to support these operations. It also hosts their test and development environments and stores SafeMode™ Snapshots in case of a ransomware attack. MetroGas can shift these workloads to the FlashArray//X whenever they need higher performance.

With FlashArray's higher performance, MetroGas can quickly set up and test services, significantly shortening the development cycle. For instance, instead of the hours once required, the team can now clone and test new payroll or ERP services in minutes.

Pure SafeMode™ Snapshots ensure backup and recovery, giving MetroGas peace of mind that their critical network and customer data cannot be encrypted or otherwise lost in the event of a ransomware attack. With SafeMode protections enabled, even administrator can't delete the snapshots until a predetermined time has passed.

Pure Storage now supports 95% of MetroGas operations. After migrating their invoicing systems to Pure, they were able to process twice as many invoices in half the time. MetroGas has reduced testing and development setup time from hours to minutes. Their new flexibility lets them meet dynamic application demand, optimizing their storage infrastructure. With the superior storage density of all-flash, their data center footprint reduced from four racks to one.

FlashArray Details

On FlashArray, block and file protocols run side by side in the Purity Operating Environment. Both block and file services benefit from global compression and deduplication across the shared storage pool. And unlike gateway-based storage solutions, SMB and NFS file protocols are served natively by Purity, so you don't have to deploy and manage additional servers or other infrastructure.

Benefits of FlashArray's unified block and file architecture include:

- Only unique blocks of data are saved on flash, removing duplicates that other architectures often miss.
- Automatic enterprise-grade data security with always-on, at-rest encryption.
- Monitoring of performance variability automatically resolves bottlenecks.
- The ability to expand capacity and replace or upgrade components without taking storage offline or impacting applications.
- Eliminating expensive upgrades and repeated storage buys, thanks to our Evergreen® subscription and Right-Size Guarantee™.
- No more data migrations and no more planned downtime for upgrades with Evergreen//Forever™ and non-disruptive software upgrades.

Fully Integrated, Streamlined Management

Manage more infrastructure with less effort from your desk or on the go. Pure Storage shows you everything across block-and-file-based production systems, plus cloud platforms and remote locations. Pure1® cloud-based as-a-service management platform provides insight to all your Pure storage. Get critical information about the health and functionality of your entire stack, using predictive analytics powered by machine learning. Block and file servers are available equally through Pure's command-line interface (CLI) and REST API. All so you can ensure consistency, make faster decisions, and respond more quickly.

Additional Resources

- Learn more about high-capacity storage without compromise with [FlashArray//C](#).
- Learn how to accelerate business results for Tier 0 and Tier 1 workloads with [FlashArray//X](#).

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