

Press release for 01/03/2022

PoINT Archival Gateway in use at EMBL's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI): Object Storage Backup on Tape

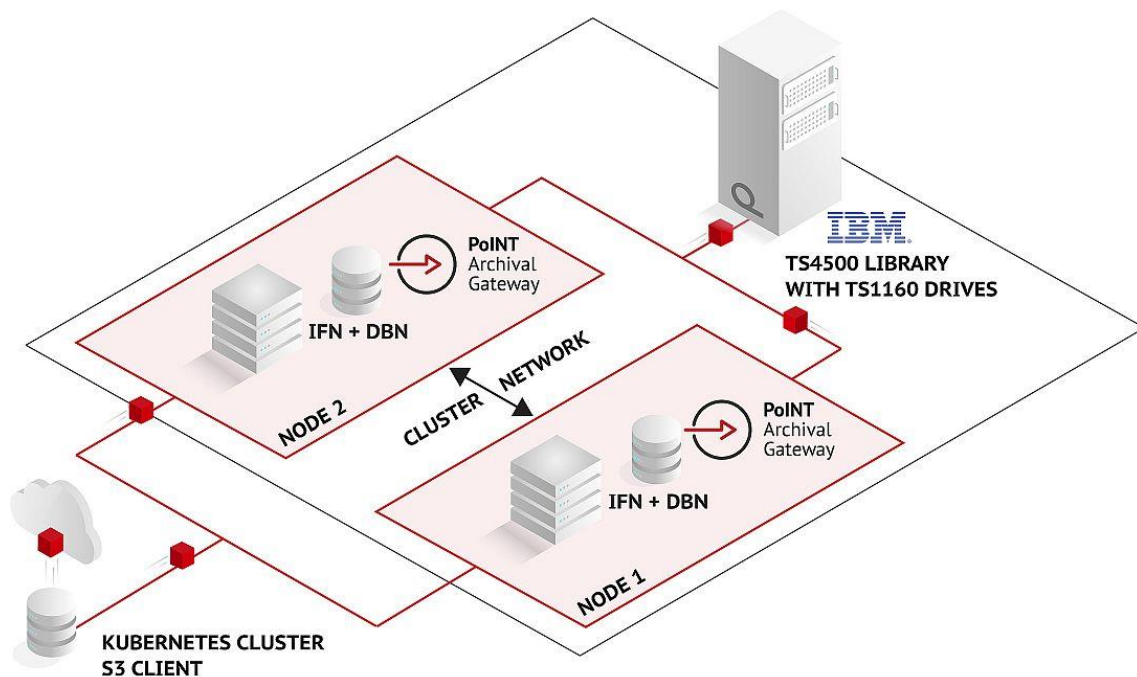
Siegen. The tape-based object storage PoINT Archival Gateway supports EMBL's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) in additionally backing up valuable research data from hard disk-based object storage systems to tape media. With this high-performance, scalable and cost-efficient storage solution, the institute is prepared for future data growth.

EMBL's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) in Hinxton currently has a dataset of about 50PB. The research institution expects this amount to grow by 1PB per month. In addition to storage on disk-based object storage systems, a full copy of this data is backed up on tape. This ensures long-term retention. Also, in case primary storage systems fail, a copy of the data is available.

Previously, an in-house script was used for this replication on tape, but it did not deliver the necessary performance. Furthermore, the storage space on the tapes was not fully utilized. With PoINT Archival Gateway, EMBL-EBI has introduced a high-performance and cost-effective alternative. PoINT Archival Gateway is a tape-based object store that receives data via the standardized S3 interface and writes it directly to tape, enabling tape compression at drive level.

Initially, an IBM TS4500 library with six IBM TS1160 drives was used as target storage. The storage software from PoINT only required a 2U server for this. In the course of the current second project phase, the installation was extended to 12 drives and two 2U servers. Since PoINT Archival Gateway

does not need a hard disk buffer to write the data to tape, the solution proves to be very cost-efficient in terms of hardware usage – and this with outstanding performance values.



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Another decisive factor for choosing PoINT Archival Gateway was that the software provides the standard S3 API and does not require cumbersome S3 Glacier commands. Due to the node-based architecture, capacity and performance are scalable and can flexibly meet future requirements. "We are very satisfied with the deployment of PoINT Archival Gateway," said Marc Riera (Software Development and Operations – Service and Data Management Technical Coordinator at EMBL-EBI). "We feel well prepared for future data growth and look forward to following the further development steps of PoINT Archival Gateway."

PoINT Archival Gateway is a vendor-independent, software-based storage solution which also allows to combine drives of different manufacturers and generations. Thus, the solution offers EMBL-EBI not only the desired performance, but also future security and a high investment protection.

For more information, see our case study at www.point.de.

About EMBL's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI):

The European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) is a global leader in the storage, analysis and dissemination of large biological datasets. EMBL-EBI helps scientists realise the potential of big data by enhancing their ability to exploit complex information to make discoveries that benefit humankind.

They are at the forefront of computational biology research, with work spanning sequence analysis methods, multi-dimensional statistical analysis and data-driven biological discovery, from plant biology to mammalian development and disease.

The institute is part of EMBL and is located on the Wellcome Genome Campus, one of the world's largest concentrations of scientific and technical expertise in genomics.

About PoINT:

PoINT Software & Systems GmbH is specialized in the development and distribution of software products for storage, management and archiving of data. Our data & storage management solutions offer an easy and efficient integration of different storage technologies and systems in consideration of enterprise requirements. PoINT products allow optimized usage of storage systems and help to reduce costs and issues caused by data growth. The software solutions fulfil compliance and archiving requirements and provide independence from storage technologies and vendors.

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