



Case Study

Cooper Union's School of Architecture Protects Decades of Digital Archives with Tiger Bridge and AWS Cloud

The Challenge

The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art prominently features an Archive Department that documents student and professor work with the aim to provide students, New Yorkers and audiences beyond with resources comprising architectural education, design exhibitions, publications, and digital collections. Over the years the department has accumulated around 26TB worth of digital archives stored on premises, a lot of it being high-resolution scans. However, Cooper Union did not want to store that much data on site anymore. They wanted to move the data to the cloud where they could also get an extra layer of protection as the New York area faces higher risks of natural disasters such as hurricanes.

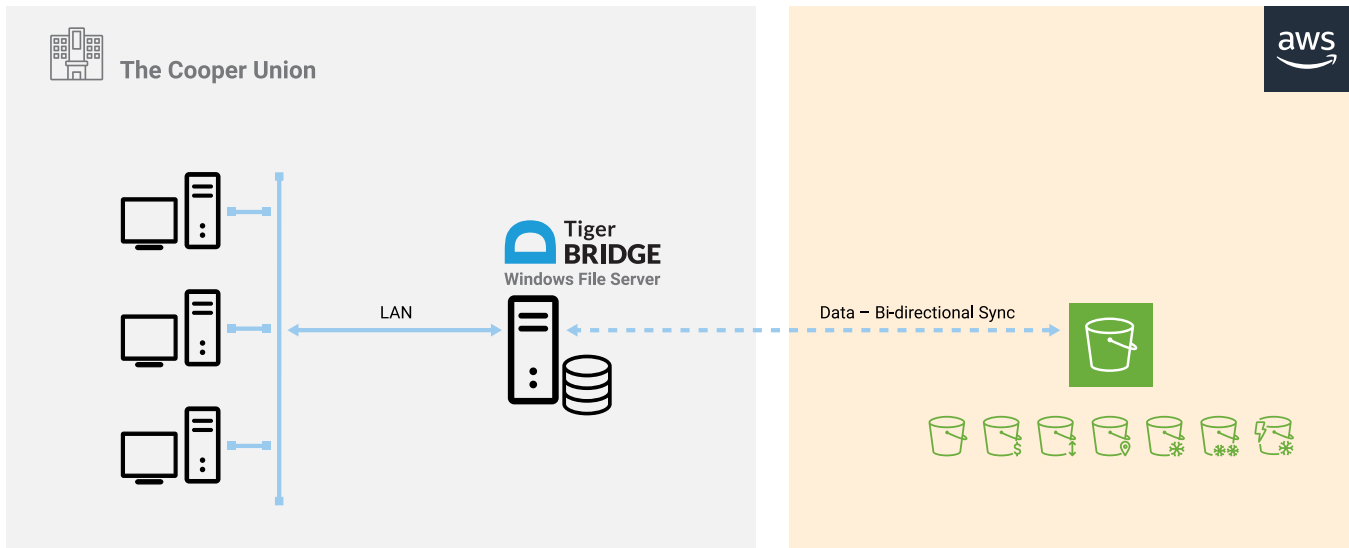
The Solution

The Cooper Union already had an existing relationship with AWS, so they opted to offload all data to Amazon S3 storage. However, this proved surprisingly challenging. It turned out that when files are uploaded to Amazon S3, their metadata gets stripped. This was a no-go for the team as the metadata of the Archive Department's photos and scans is very important, especially keeping a record of the historical date. Cooper Union and the AWS team set out to test different ways to get the data in S3 so that the metadata can be saved, but none of them achieved that while also combining simplicity with cost-effectiveness and scalability. It was then that the AWS Solutions Architect recommended Tiger Bridge data management software by Tiger Technology. Cooper Union tested it, and it worked like magic – Tiger Bridge had the ability to preserve all the metadata. With Tiger Bridge, metadata could also be restored when data is retrieved from the cloud on demand by staff members who need to work on it.

The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, established in 1859, is among the oldest and most distinguished institutions of higher education in the USA. The college, founded by inventor, industrialist and philanthropist, Peter Cooper, and located in New York, offers a world-class education in art, architecture and engineering as well as an outstanding faculty of humanities and social sciences.

Commonly known as Cooper Union, the school has a staff count of 214 and educates a combined total of 973 undergraduate and graduate students.





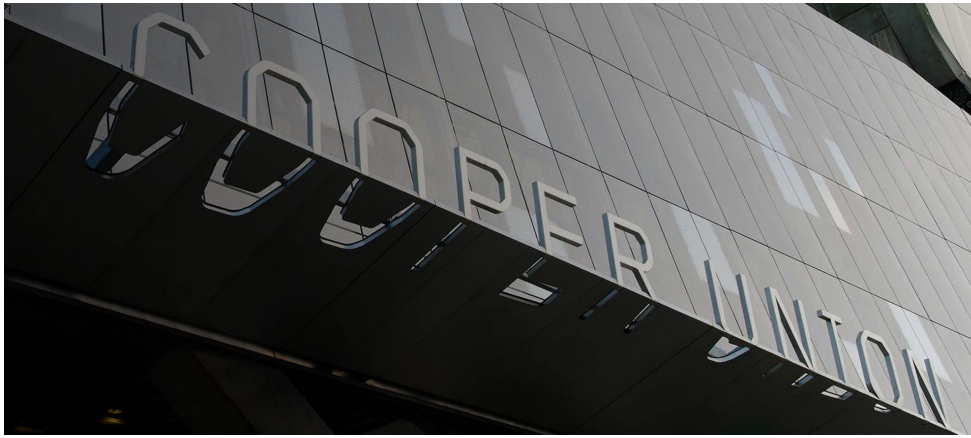
Secure Digital Archives in AWS: How it Works

For the past 18 months the Archive Department has been performing a meticulous migration process which involves several rounds of offloading data that is not required for daily access by the department. To date, the department has migrated 12-15TB out of a total of 26TB and hopes to complete the migration by early fall. In the meantime, to enable a smooth workflow for users at the Archive Department, the IT Department has set up a Windows server with about 6TB of working space. Tiger Bridge is running on this server to intelligently manage the life cycle of data across local and Amazon S3 storage. Tiger Bridge also reclaims space on the local server as soon as data is no longer needed for daily access, so users are able to download data from AWS on demand without ever running out of space. For users, the movement of data to and from the cloud is seamless and transparent – they access their files from Amazon S3 storage as if files are on the local server. Remote access to the server provides users with user-friendly visual indication of whether data is available locally or in AWS cloud as well as additional capabilities offered by Tiger Bridge. When a file has been archived in Amazon S3 Deep Archive, users only need to right-click to rehydrate the file and make it available locally.

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Tiger Bridge for AWS is the magic bullet for any organization that needs the metadata of their files saved when interfacing with a cloud storage environment that strips it. The Tiger Bridge and AWS integration is perfect for any archiving department around the world looking for a cost-effective solution.

- Systems Engineering Manager, Department of IT,
The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art.



Customer Outcomes

For Cooper Union, the biggest outcome of using Tiger Bridge was being able to migrate to Amazon S3 where they can benefit from endlessly scalable storage. Since the Archive Department archives student and professor work annually, their storage demands exponentially increase every couple of years. Integrating Tiger Bridge for AWS into their tech stack meant that they no longer had to invest in on-premises storage up front or carry the burden of maintaining it. Being able to leverage very cost-effective storage with Tiger Bridge has been a huge success for Cooper Union's Archive Department this past year as well as moving forward. The most decisive factor in choosing Tiger Bridge was that the solution offers seamless integration with Amazon S3 storage and preserves file metadata. In addition, the transparency of the solution and the easy, self-service access to archived files contributes to reduced hands-on involvement from IT administrators in the day-to-day work of Architecture Archives staff. All in all, adopting the Tiger Bridge for AWS cloud solution has resulted in reduced complexity, significant flexibility and savings for Cooper Union.

Tiger Bridge did exactly what was advertised to us: storing metadata, being able to interface with AWS, being really straightforward to download data and hydrate back to the cloud...The fact that Tiger Bridge is able to couple very cost-effective storage with saving the metadata has been a huge success for this department this past year as well as moving forward.

- Systems Engineering Manager, Department of IT, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art.

More about Tiger Bridge

Tiger Bridge is a software-only data management solution enabling seamless hybrid cloud infrastructure. The software is installed in the customer's on-premises or cloud environment to intelligently connect file data across file and object storage anywhere for data lifecycle management, global file access, Disaster Recovery, data migration and access to insights. Tiger Bridge supports all Amazon S3 storage classes, including Amazon S3 Glacier Instant Retrieval and S3 Glacier Deep Archive for long-term archival of data such as digitized video and photo archives and enables transparent access to data in S3 storage. By combining Tiger Bridge and AWS cloud services, customers across various industries benefit from resource optimization, resilience and capacity management.



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Tiger Technology develops hybrid cloud data management software that helps organizations with mission-critical deployments optimize their on-premises storage and enhance their workflows through cloud services.

Tiger Technology brings over 19 years of expertise in storage and data management solutions for high-performance workflows - from cross-platform NAS/SAN shared file systems to storage, user, project, and media management. The company's current focus is enabling "on-premises-first" hybrid cloud.

Tiger Technology is a Validated Software Technology Partner for AWS.