PixStor
PixCache Cloud
Burst Rendering Gateway

Highlights

Certified on Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure and Google GCP
Allows content creators and distributors to extend their workflows into the cloud quickly and simply

Parallelises Transfers Between On-premise and Cloud
Increase throughput reduces instance running time by self managing the flow of data to and from on-premise storage

Path Name Mirroring Reduces Workflow Complexity
Greatly decreases the number of data copies required for job completion

Runs in Simple CentOS Linux-based Cloud Instance
Painlessly cloudburst onto unlimited nodes, minimizing data transfer and maximizing data locality

Automatically Flushes Stale Data From Cache
Newly created data in the cloud is asynchronously flushed to your on-premise storage by PixCache as soon as they are written, letting you continue your work before the entire job has even completed

Prefetches Data to Cache for Anticipated Access
Provides data affinity to compute instances, ensuring the fastest possible response times, simple NAS interface in the cloud provides NFS, SMB and FTP access - no additional software required on compute instances

Automatically Commits New and Changed Data Back to Central Storage
Greatly reduces the number of data copies required for job completion

Adheres to Existing On-premise Security Practices
Ensures asset security and IP protection

Extending Media Workflows Into the Cloud

VFX organizations are ideal candidates for harnessing the power of the Cloud. Constantly faced with tight project deadlines and competing for new projects, they need to act quickly to spin up infrastructure to catch up or add capacity for new project wins. Augmenting their own infrastructure and "bursting" to the cloud gaining access to more compute power at peak times is the ideal use case for VFX studios. Expanding computational resources into the cloud is great way for facilities of any size to stay on schedule and compete for more projects.
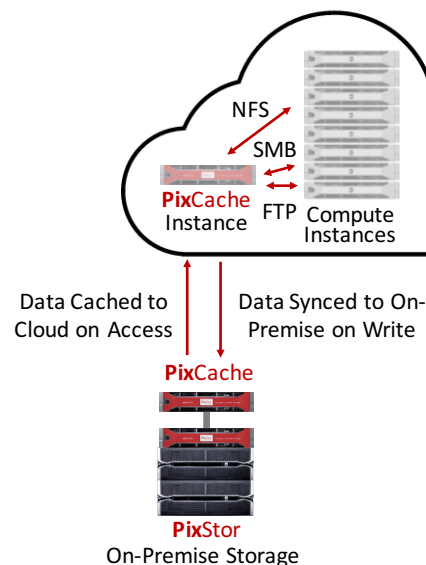
The Challenge

The allure of cloud computing for applications such as rendering and transcoding is significant. At first glance, the ability to instantly 'spin-up' large quantities of compute resources in a short period of time appears to be the perfect solution for accelerating large or behind-schedule projects. However, the extra time, complexity and cost involved in moving data back an forth between on-premise storage and cloud resources can leave many content creators frustrated.

Simple Cost Effective Software Defined Caching in the Cloud

PixCache Cloud Burst Rendering Gateway provides software-defined caching in the cloud for data hosted by your on-premise storage, presenting an in-cloud 'local' NAS for computational resources. PixCache presents a complete view of your on-premise storage to cloud instances and automatically caches data on access. This ensures that only the data that is required will be transferred to the cloud. Newly created data in the cloud is asynchronously flushed to your on-premise storage by PixCache as soon as they are written, letting you continue your work before the entire job has even completed.

Automating the Entire On Premise to Cloud Pipeline

PixCache automates the entire data transfer pipeline, reducing the number of copies that must be distributed and ensuring the fastest possible data access times to your cloud instances, so content creators save both time and money. In short, PixCache ensures that your cloud-assisted projects will finish on time and under-budget.

PixCache Burst Rendering

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Unified Services and Support

- "Disk to desktop" holistic solution understanding
- Direct access to knowledgeable expertise – no "briar patch" support
- Hybrid managed service: regular maintenance tasks such as firmware and upgrades are handled by PixStor support, rather than the customer's technical staff
- Alerts generated by the system are proactively investigated and escalated by PixStor support
- Single point of contact multi-vendor incident management ensures SLA's and top-quality support experience is delivered
- Automated weekly health checks

Comprehensive Solution Design

- Extensive, in-depth analysis of existing environment focusing on workflow requirements, storage, network, and applications
- Identify issues and bottlenecks
- Design solution architecture including hardware, software configuration and procurement guidance
- Integrated system build and implementation

Cloud Service Support for Rendering

Cloud providers have developed easy to deploy, powerful and cost-effective rendering tools to make all this happen. They have created a complete on demand elastic rendering infrastructure, letting you scale as you need. You only pay for the additional resources when there is a demand for those resources, both hardware and software. What's more, the highly parallel nature of rendering jobs makes using Cloud Spot Instances ideal for rendering, reducing cloud rendering instance costs up to 90%. And to top it off, Cloud Service providers have specifically designed their solutions to work seamlessly in concert with your existing on premise infrastructure.

PixCache Cloud Burst Rendering Gateway Makes it Easy

However, getting your data to and from the cloud introduces complexity, increasing delivering times and cost. PixCache Cloud Burst Rendering Gateway removes this complexity by seamlessly extending your on-premise storage into the cloud. PixCache minimizes latency between where the data is stored and where it is processed, ensuring the fastest possible completion times, getting more render jobs done at the lowest instance cost.

An Industrial Strength, Robust, Easy to Manage Storage Platform

PixStor is an easy to manage, scalable, high performance storage system with centralized control of all file system components from a single interface employing graphical interfaces for common tasks, and Python and REST APIs for file system automation and workflow integration. PixStor monitoring, alerting and performance analytics are tailored to the exact needs of the administrative workflow and empower the organization with unprecedented insight into data usage and trends.

All-inclusive, Expertly Delivered "Disk to Desktop" Unified Services and Support

We uniquely support our customers' complete environment, providing direct access to knowledgeable expertise and hybrid managed services done by Pixit Media engineers.

Pixit Media has Become the De Facto Standard for Post and Broadcast in the UK

Pixit Media solutions are deployed by leading content creation and distribution organizations around the world. We have been counted on to deliver numerous commercially successful Oscar, BAFTA and Emmy winning TV and Film VFX and CGI, Commercials and Music Videos.

Example Pixit Media Customers in Post and Broadcast

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