City Year is an education organization dedicated to helping students and schools succeed. Founded in 1988, City Year partners with public schools in 28 high-need communities across the U.S. and through international affiliates in the U.K. and Johannesburg, South Africa. City Year uses HubStor to archive unstructured data in Microsoft Azure; a critical piece in decommissioning 15 legacy file servers in their shift to a cloud-only IT strategy.

SHIFTING TO A CLOUD-ONLY IT STRATEGY

Diverse teams of City Year AmeriCorps members partner with schools to deliver research-based academic and social-emotional supports designed to help students come to school every day ready to learn, achieve at high levels, and graduate from high school prepared for college and career. Annually, 3,000 City Year AmeriCorps members serve full-time in more than 300 schools.

City Year has relied on a client/server IT infrastructure. However, in 2017, City Year will complete its transition to a cloud-only IT model.

A significant challenge in their IT transformation was City Year's 15 file servers. The organization wished to preserve all of the data, but most of it was inactive and low-touch. City Year did not want to clutter their SharePoint Online or OneDrive for Business collaboration spaces with archive documents. After considering Amazon Glacier and Amazon Storage Gateway, they selected HubStor on Microsoft Azure. City Year's IT leadership needed both a hybrid cloud storage and cloud archive solution that could seamlessly handle the transition of their on-premises file servers to the cloud. Moreover, in the cloud, they wanted to provide self-service access to City Year users with secure identity integration.

MIGRATING FILE SERVER DATA TO THE CLOUD: A THREE-PHASED APPROACH

City Year's IT team leveraged HubStor's hybrid cloud storage solution to execute a three-phased migration methodology, as follows:

"The transition to HubStor has helped City Year meet its IT goals for the cloud while reducing costs as we decommissioned old hardware across the organization. This has made it easier for staff to focus their energy into what matters most – helping the organization better serve students and schools."

Welles Hatch
Chief Information Officer

"HubStor provides City Year with analytics and other tools that our IT team can use to better serve our users and meet our mission."

Welles Hatch
Chief Information Officer

- **Phase I: Seeding** – HubStor's virtual cloud gateway ran cloud archiving policies against file servers. In this process, the IT team synchronized all content to their HubStor tenant running in Azure that had a last modified time older than two years.

- **Phase II: Storage tiering and data classification** – Using HubStor's invisible storage tiering, a second policy ran to seamlessly shortcut the cloud-captured content. HubStor's activity auditing and analytics enabled the IT team to monitor user retrieval activity to isolate any frequently accessed data which was moved to an collaboration space in Office 365. If the data proved to be inactive or low-touch, it stayed in City Year's corporate cloud archive with HubStor where it is now more easily classified and managed.

- **Phase III: Cloud-only** – With data organized in the cloud, a third and final policy in HubStor's gateway service ran against the file servers to delete the content that now exclusively lives in the cloud. With the data removed, City Year was then able to decommission the servers.

Phase II - Seamless Storage Tiering
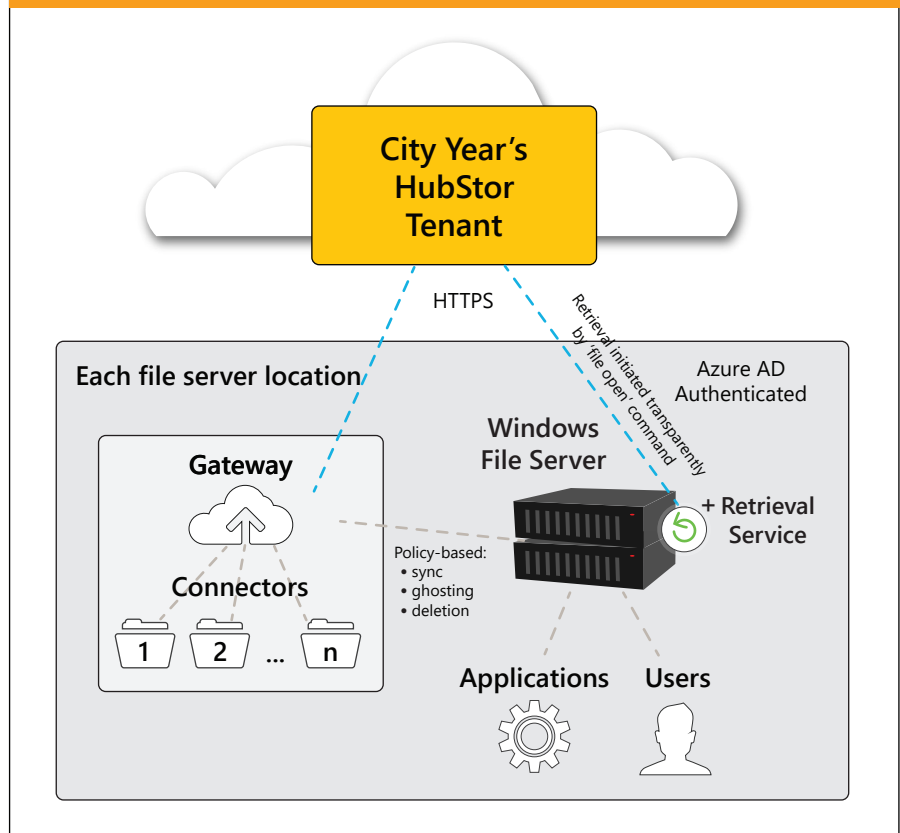
HOST AZURE REGION:

North Central US

STORAGE METRICS:

• **15 TB** currently in HubStor
• **12** file server locations
• **50%** storage reduction from deduplication and compression

SECURITY:

• AES-256 bit encryption-at-rest
• ACL synchronization
• Isolated tenant in Microsoft Azure
• Azure Active Directory with HubStor directory synchronization
• Okta SSO

KEY FEATURES:

• Virtual Cloud Gateway
• Scale-out deployment from multiple on-prem storage locations to a central cloud archive
• Policy-based data migration with folder and ACL synchronization
• Seamless storage tiering
• Self-service user access
• Data-aware storage analytics
• Low-cost Cool storage with deduplication and compression

CONTENT STRATEGY IN THE CLOUD

City Year uses OneDrive for Business for home directories, SharePoint for collaboration, and HubStor for retention archiving in Azure.

Azure Active Directory has replaced their on-premises domain controllers and City Year's Okta deployment provides users a single sign-on (SSO) experience. HubStor's identity integration with Azure AD means that SSO to HubStor works out-of-the-box; HubStor displays as one of the 'tiles' visible at the Okta single point of entry.

HubStor synchronizes with City Year's Azure AD to maintain awareness of group memberships and account status. When HubStor captured data from City Year's legacy file servers, it also synchronized folder structures and access controls.

HubStor's enables workers to access archived content on a self-service basis – they can browse data in its original folder hierarchies and only see the items and folders based on their groups and access rights. HubStor's user portal also provides users the option of secure link-based sharing of items and folders, making it easy to be productive with the archived content.

HubStor Cloud-only Solution Topology
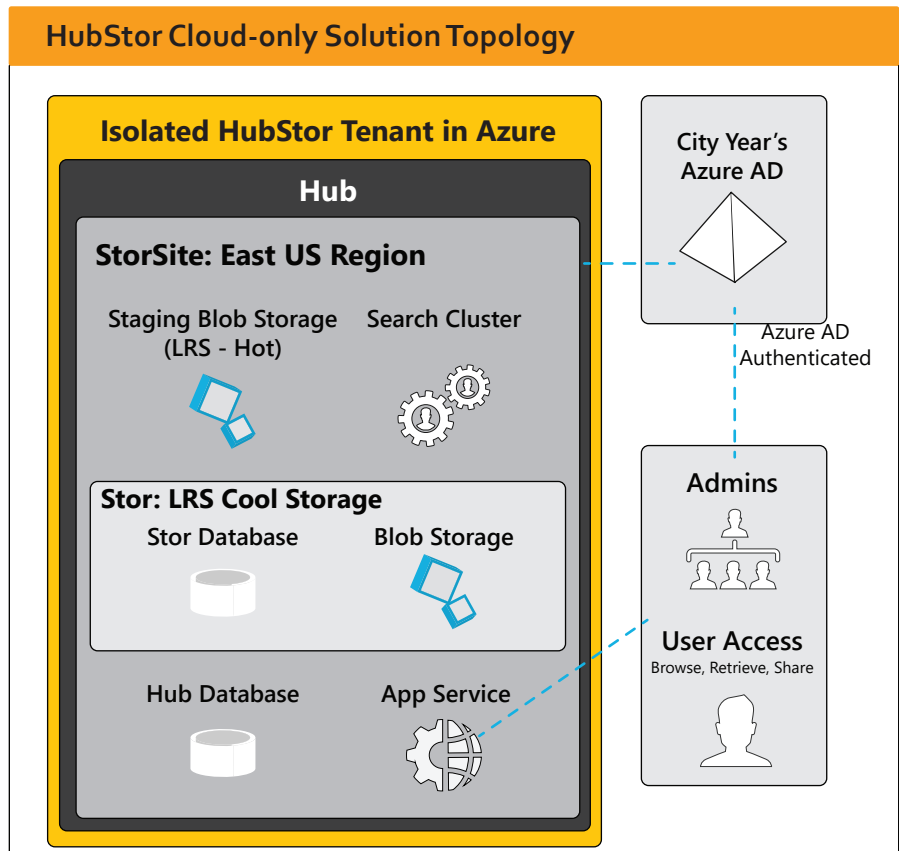
HUBSTOR CLOUD ADVANTAGES FOR CITY YEAR

In the cloud, HubStor provides the following advantages:

- **50% Storage Reduction** – Through deduplication and compression, City Year's content is reduced to half of its original size in HubStor.

- **Data-aware Storage** – HubStor wraps City Year's archives with analytics, auditing, and a near real-time policy engine, providing the IT team with valuable insights to better serve the City Year's users and meet its mission.

- **Data Governance Controls** – HubStor includes retention management, data classification, content indexing, litigation hold, and data loss prevention (DLP) features. Although City Year is not currently using these features, the IT team anticipates eventual adoption as the organization looks ahead at advancing its data governance and security posture.

FUTURE SHAREPOINT ARCHIVING

City Year plans to use HubStor's soon-to-be-released SharePoint archiving to declutter archive content from their collaboration sites and manage retention policies from the corporate archive.

HubStor™