



# RainStor for Instant Application Retirement in the Cloud

**RainStor provides the optimal repository for simply, securely and cost-effectively preserving legacy data in the cloud.**

## **Instant Application Retirement™**

Many companies spend too much time, effort and budget managing legacy applications? More than 30% of business applications in most data centers are either rarely used or obsolete, incurring significant software, hardware and maintenance bills just to keep old data accessible. These legacy applications also distract IT resources from mission-critical applications and strategic initiatives that drive revenue and growth. Of course increased regulation and business requirements dictate that data from legacy applications must continue to be available and accessible, so there has been little choice but to keep these systems running, until now...

RainStor allows companies to instantly retire legacy applications and store the historical data in the cloud. RainStor can be used to keep legacy data safe, secure and always accessible. Companies can also use everyday reporting tools to search or analyze the data, without the headache or costs of managing legacy applications. Unlike traditional methods of storing and managing data using databases or data warehouses, which are complex and expensive, RainStor is simple, low-cost and administration free.

## **Remove the Constraints of Retiring Applications**

Whether due to mergers and acquisitions, application upgrades or just plain obsolescence, the challenges of application retirement are the same:

- **Too Hard** – The need to retain access to legacy data makes planning and deploying an application retirement project expensive and time consuming.
- **Too Slow** – Most 3<sup>rd</sup> party tools that convert application data into other forms require new ways of accessing or recovering the data.
- **Too Risky** – New tools involve learning new skills, employing complex mappings or conversions, where data loss, integrity and security are an issue.
- **Too Costly** – Regardless of the software tools that are required, application retirement projects still require on-site hardware and storage.

RainStor was designed to use cloud computing for simple, low-cost and accessible storage of inactive structured data, which makes it perfect for application retirement. It removes the major constraints that prevent these critical initiatives from ever getting started.



### What is Software as a Service and Cloud Computing

Software as a Service (SaaS), pioneered successfully by companies such as salesforce.com, has proven to be a universally accepted and trusted way to access application functionality through a browser, without the need to own or install costly hardware or software. The data is stored securely off site “in the cloud” and end users get the functionality they need with none of the IT burden.

RainStor can be used to deliver application retirement services in the cloud. RainStor’s unique data storage and management technology can be combined with cloud platforms such as Amazon’s Simple Storage Service (S3) and Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2). The result is a seamless way of archiving your historical structured data, while retaining on-demand availability.

### RainStor Explained in 3 Easy Steps

While RainStor leverages sophisticated technology in the background, RainStor can be implemented in 3 easy steps:

- 1. Send** – Structured data from any database is automatically compressed by 40x or more, encrypted and sent to the cloud using the RSloader client-side module. The extreme compression that is applied significantly reduces the time to transfer data securely to the cloud.
- 2. Store** – The encrypted data is stored within RScontainers in cloud storage such as Amazon’s highly available and secure storage cloud (S3). These containers ensure the immutability of your data and protect against modification or tampering of any kind.
- 3. Search** – The data in the private containers can be instantly searched and analysed through the RSGateway running in a cloud such as Amazon’s highly scalable compute cloud (EC2). The RSGateway allows data to be queried through any industry-standard reporting or BI tools over ODBC or JDBC.

Using Rainstor can eliminate the layers of cost associated with legacy application management: no more software licences, servers, storage, or data centre costs, and the expensive resources needed to keep legacy applications running can be redeployed.

Key Benefits RainStor for Instant Application Retirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Free up IT resources and budget</b> assigned to managing legacy applications and reallocate to business-critical projects.</li><li>• <b>Satisfy regulatory and business needs</b> by keeping legacy data secure, protected and immediately accessible.</li><li>• <b>Minimise time, risk and effort</b> of decommissioning applications using existing skills and a fully managed service.</li></ul>

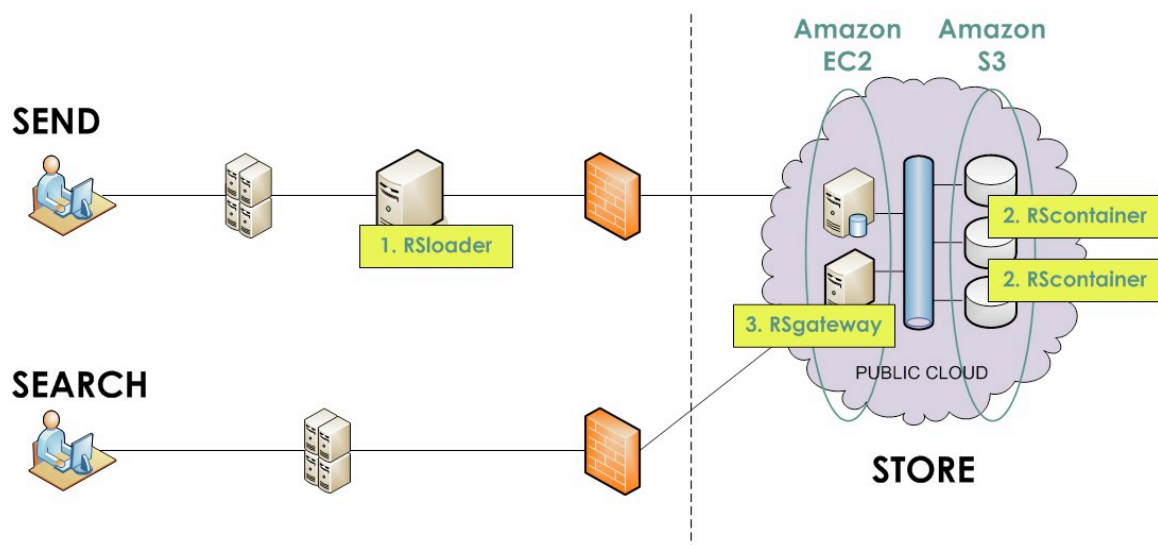


## RainStor Technical Architecture

RainStor is the only specialized data repository that can be deployed in the cloud to enable Instant Application Retirement™.

### RainStor in Action

With RainStor you simply use **RSloader** as a virtual appliance to automatically compress, encrypt and send the data to the cloud. The data is compressed by 40x or more before transferring the data files securely to the cloud. This high degree of compression greatly reduces the data transfer time.



The data is encapsulated, without any loss of content or structure, in **RScontainers** which can be stored on the Amazon storage cloud (S3) or any other cloud platform. RScontainers are fully protected at all times using state-of-the-art encryption that ensures data can only be accessed with the keys that you are given and own. In addition, RScontainers only contain your data, further reducing security risks and simplifying management. Keeping multiple copies of the data in different physical and logical locations is also an option, ensuring data is never lost and always available.

The data in the private containers can be accessed on-demand using the **RSgateway** running on the Amazon compute cloud (EC2) or any other cloud platform. The RSgateway provides all the reporting and analytical capabilities you would expect from a traditional database or data warehouse. RainStor supports full SQL access (via ODBC/JDBC) using industry standard reporting tools and interfaces. In essence, RainStor provides the same access to data with the same tools that many companies would utilise if the information was stored locally. Performance is also lightening fast and comparable to on-site, big dollar enterprise databases and data warehouses.



## Summary of Key RainStor Components

Components	Features	Benefit
<b>1. RSloader</b>	Send compressed data to the cloud: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accepts structured data from any source</li><li>• Compresses data by 40:1 in an obfuscated form</li></ul>	<b>Client-side compression</b> significantly reduces transfer time to cloud and <b>reduces risk</b> of failure
<b>2. RScontainer</b>	Store data in private containers in the cloud: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Data held in private read-only containers</li><li>• Data encrypted with your own keys</li></ul>	<b>Private containers</b> and top grade encryption ensure data is <b>secure and protected</b> with zero administration
<b>3. RSgateway</b>	Search data on demand with standard tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supports full SQL access through ODBC and JDBC</li><li>• Elastic cloud computing ensures fast performance</li></ul>	<b>Open and standards-based</b> access allows unlimited and immediate access to archived data requiring <b>no new skills</b>

## Compatibility and Specifications

- Data Encryption Used: AES 256-bit encryption in CBC mode
- Data Transfer Security: SSL protocol
- Data Formats Accepted: XML or BCP
- Data Access Methods: SQL-92 over ODBC or JDBC
- Sample RDBMS Data Sources: Oracle, SQL Server, DB2, MySQL
- Sample Data Access Tools: Microstrategy, SAP BusinessObjects, IBM Cognos
- Sample Retired Applications: Custom, Oracle eBusiness, Siebel, Peoplesoft, SAP, JD Edwards