

SOLUTION BRIEF

Commvault Flex

Petabyte-Scale Recovery Readiness, Without Overprovisioning

OVERVIEW

As AI-enabled threats increase the speed and scale of disruption, organizations need confidence that recovery capabilities can keep pace with data growth. Commvault Flex provides a validated, standardized architecture built on VaultOS™, Commvault's purpose-built operating environment. By enabling compute and external object storage to scale independently, Flex helps organizations support recovery readiness at petabyte scale while scaling infrastructure according to actual capacity and performance requirements.

WHY INDEPENDENT SCALING MATTERS

Many backup architectures tie compute and storage together. At petabyte scale, that can force organizations to add resources they do not need simply to gain the capacity or performance they do. The result is higher costs and greater complexity as data volumes grow. Equally important, as protected data expands, maintaining recovery objectives becomes increasingly difficult when infrastructure growth is tied to fixed architectures that cannot scale efficiently.

The Commvault Flex architecture separates compute from dedicated external object storage, allowing organizations to scale each independently based on workload and recovery requirements. This helps teams align infrastructure growth to recovery objectives, maintain predictable recovery performance as data volumes expand, and reduce unnecessary overprovisioning.

A VALIDATED FOUNDATION, HARDENED BY DESIGN

Independent scaling delivers greater value when supported by an operating foundation IT and security teams can manage consistently. Commvault Flex runs on VaultOS™, the hardened, purpose-built operating environment shared across the Commvault Storage Solutions Family. Standardized configurations and centralized visibility and governance help simplify lifecycle management, streamline updates, reduce configuration variability, and keep protection and recovery workflows aligned as the environment grows.

As part of Commvault's broader recovery portfolio, Flex connects its validated, VaultOS™-hardened foundation to cyber resilience workflows, including pre-recovery threat detection with Commvault Threat Scan and isolated recovery testing and validation with Commvault Cleanroom.

Scale with Precision	Simplify Operations	Strengthen Recovery Readiness
Independently scale compute and external storage based on workload and recovery requirements.	Standardized configurations and centralized visibility help streamline deployment, updates, and ongoing management.	A common VaultOS™ foundation helps maintain consistent protection and connects to threat scanning and isolated recovery-validation workflows.

FLEX APPLIANCE: A VALIDATED, TURNKEY APPROACH

For many data-intensive, petabyte-scale environments, Commvault Flex Appliance is the recommended approach. Flex Appliance brings this validated foundation together in a turnkey configuration designed for data-intensive, petabyte-scale environments. It pairs Commvault compute nodes with certified, dedicated external object storage from preferred partners in a configuration built to a known design.

Designed for deployments from 500 TB to multiple petabytes, Flex Appliance starts with two compute nodes and allows compute and storage resources to scale independently as capacity and recovery requirements change. Its validated architecture helps organizations plan for recovery performance as the environment grows, while coordinated single-call support gives teams one place to start for software, server hardware, and certified external storage issues.



FLEX OPEN: BUILT FOR EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

For organizations whose existing infrastructure investments, preferred vendor relationships, or procurement requirements are not accommodated by the Flex Appliance configuration, Flex Open provides an alternative deployment option. It extends the Commvault Flex architecture to customer-procured infrastructure that meets Commvault Storage Solutions standardized specifications, while maintaining a consistent software foundation, security posture and recovery operating model.

Flex Open is a guided alternative to a traditional unmanaged build-it-yourself model. Compute and storage must meet Commvault requirements, and the customer or partner retains responsibility for deployment, monitoring, and hardware support. Commvault continues to support the software layer, including VaultOS™ and Commvault software. Flex Open supports single- and multi-node configurations, with up to 500 TB of back-end capacity per node, giving organizations flexibility to size qualifying infrastructure around their specific requirements.

PLAN FOR RECOVERY AT PETABYTE SCALE

As data moves toward multi-petabyte scale, the infrastructure behind recovery should not be what holds growth back. Commvault Flex helps IT and security leaders maintain recovery readiness through a validated, VaultOS™-hardened architecture that scales with precision, supporting predictable recovery performance as data volumes continue to grow.

Go Deeper: Commvault Flex Appliance documentation | Commvault Flex Open documentation

THE SCALE OF THE CHALLENGE

74% of organizations now manage more than 5PB of unstructured data — a 57% increase over 2024.[1]

76% of organizations struggle to match the speed and sophistication of AI-enabled cyberattacks, as threat actors increasingly leverage automation and AI to accelerate attacks.[2]

SUPPORTING CLEAN, CONFIRMED RECOVERY

Commvault Flex connects to Commvault Threat Scan for pre-recovery threat detection and Commvault Cleanroom for isolated recovery validation. Flex serves as an on-premises recovery vault, enabling teams to restore and investigate data in an isolated environment designed to reduce risk to production systems. The result is recovery-test results that security teams can bring to auditors and boards, not just a protection claim.

1 Komprise, State of Unstructured Data Management Report, 2026.
2 CrowdStrike, 2025 State of Ransomware Survey, 2025.

At a Glance - Key Differentiators

Flex Appliance Designed for customers seeking a predictable, appliance-like experience, validated configuration, and simplified infrastructure management.	**Flex Open** Designed for customers whose qualifying infrastructure or procurement requirements are not accommodated by Flex Appliance.
Designed as a fully validated, turnkey solution.	Supports qualifying customer-procured server and storage infrastructure that meets Commvault standardized specifications.
Coordinated single-call support across Commvault software, server hardware, and certified external storage.	Provides greater infrastructure choice, with the customer or partner responsible for deployment, monitoring, and underlying hardware support.
Simplified deployment and operations.	Doesn't require a fixed Commvault appliance BOM; customer-procured components must meet current Commvault specifications. May support additional protocols and deployment scenarios, depending on the selected, qualifying infrastructure.
Integration and monitoring for certified external storage through Commvault.	No integration and monitoring for hardware through Commvault.

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