

Solution Brief

Storage Made Easy + SoftIron

Break free of siloed storage and enable sophisticated remote working practices with Storage Made Easy Enterprise File Fabric and SoftIron HyperDrive.

The global workforce has never been more global.

Multi-geo work teams, company acquisitions, international research projects and the COVID-19 pandemic have all contributed to creating a highly distributed workforce, with teams being separated by greater spans of distance than ever before.

With a pressing need to collaborate, teams turn to the nearest and easiest tools available: email, advertising-driven file-sharing services, or their own public cloud storage accounts. But this ad-hoc sharing method doesn't scale well, and without a standardised approach, tracking down files can be a time sink - and they may even become compromised, or lost for good.

Hybrid cloud approaches allow enterprises to tailor their solutions to their exact operational requirements.

By adopting a hybrid cloud approach, organisations can access the best of both worlds:

Public cloud tools	Private cloud solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduced management overhead• Incremental scalability• Reduced maintenance requirements• High levels of availability (at a price)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost-effective scalability• Greater transparency• Greater control over infrastructure and upgrades• Flexibility to tailor a solution to your needs

However, hybrid cloud solutions can wind up creating their own platform-specific silos, creating barriers to collaboration, complicating user access permission management, and increasing the work required to conduct auditing activities.

Answering these challenges is essential to avoid bottlenecks, security breaches and legal messes. This is especially true if you are working with personally sensitive or highly regulated data, ensuring compliance with data residency legislation, or seeking to capitalise on the benefits of an edge computing approach.

To unify flexible private cloud storage with tools like Microsoft Teams, Dropbox and Google Drive, some organisations have attempted to establish complex synchronisation activities and manually-driven data registers. But there's another option available, that is far less taxing to maintain. With Storage Made Easy and SoftIron, you can flexibility scale your private cloud solution while offering a consistent, cohesive, and navigable way for your teams to work with data, no matter where it is stored.

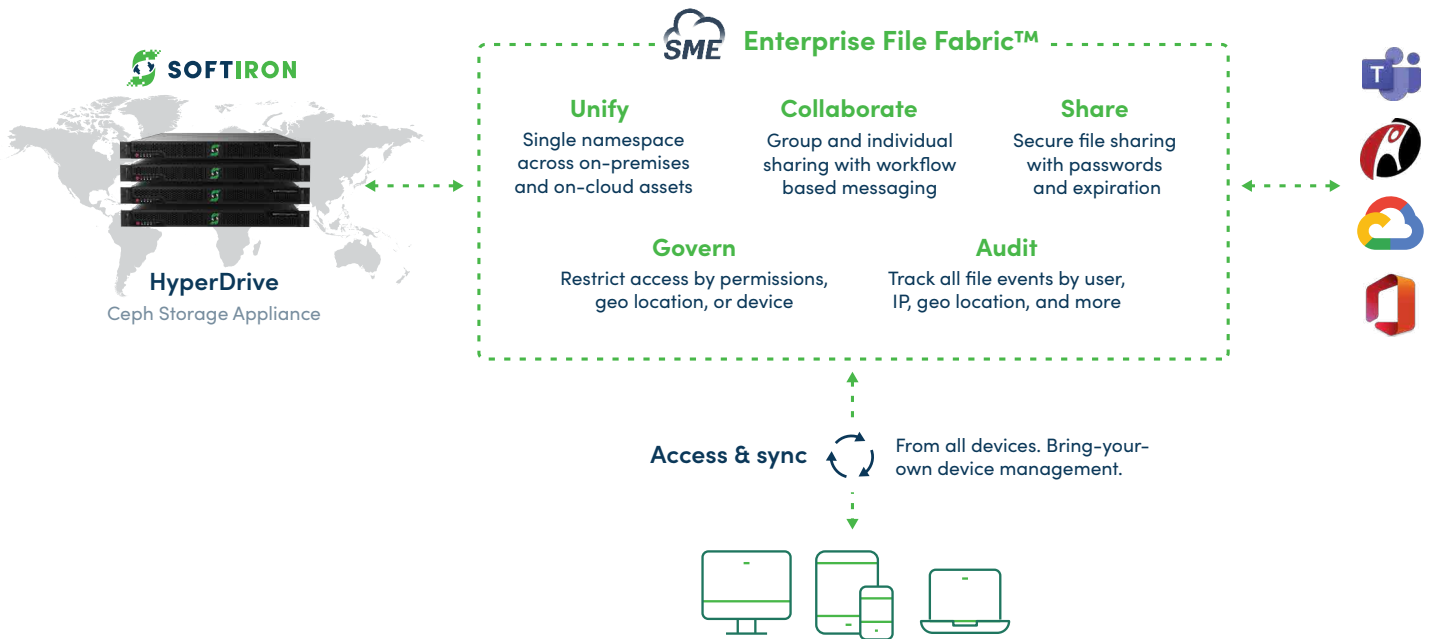
Maintain control over your solution while providing employees with a unified interface for accessing data no matter where it is stored, with Storage Made Easy Enterprise File Fabric and SoftIron HyperDrive.

Collaboration no longer has to happen synchronously - but it does rely on the collaboration platform being consistent, reliable, and easy to use. By using SoftIron HyperDrive for your private cloud and edge computing needs, and Storage Made Easy Enterprise File Fabric to unite all your storage within a single interface, employees can smoothly manage their workflows and collaborate centrally, no matter where they are in the world.

Benefits of a unified hybrid storage solution

1. Keep your workloads where you need them by seamlessly integrating public cloud with edge computing
2. Meet data residency requirements without siloing your enterprise operations
3. Optimise your budget by using a combination of public and private cloud resources to best fit your requirements.
4. Migrate data between storage providers without disruption to workplace operations
5. Utilise multiple storage providers and geographical locations for a resilient and easy to manage global file sharing solution

A unified storage solution for your hybrid cloud environment



Storage Made Easy's Enterprise File Fabric unifies your data storage

The Enterprise File Fabric data management and protection platform unifies on-premises and on-cloud company storage assets into a single, easily managed infrastructure. In addition to providing a single point of control for governance and compliance, providing centralized encryption and auditing features, File Fabric enables workgroup collaboration including synchronizing and sharing files across workstations, production sites, and mobile devices. There is no vendor lock-in; Enterprise File Fabric can be removed from your solution without impacting your underlying storage.

Unified namespace

Users gain access to distributed storage providers through a single virtual file system, accessed legibly through a shared network drive, their web browsers, or native Android and iOS apps.

Move data from one vendor to another behind the scenes, without impacting users.

Searchable global data catalog

Access fast, permission-based browsing and search features across your unified storage. File names, metadata and media info tags are searchable by default, and you can enable content indexing to search for results within files, too. You can even apply transcription rules to create searchable audio and visual media.

Data protection

Apply antivirus scanning and personally identifiable information (PII) monitoring to your data. Combine this with immutable replicas, critical for mitigating ransomware threats, and Enterprise File Fabric's full audit trail, you can create and easily manage a robust backup and disaster recovery strategy.

Universal access

Easy to install across devices, fully compatible with a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) data sharing strategy.

Sophisticated data governance

Universal file locking ensures two users won't unwittingly overwrite each other's changes, along with permissions-based access to view and restore versions.

Edit files in their native applications

Applications can be launched directly from the desktop or web browser interface, with full support for Microsoft 365 web editing, along with Outlook and Office plugins for easy uploading and sharing.

Secure access

Fine-grained permissions control allows for per-user or per-user-group access management. Apply two factor authentication, timed access policies, FIPS encryption, AD/SAML/LDAP integration, and external user authentication.

Multi-cloud data transfer

Optimize large file and object transfers with M-Stream® and SMBStream™. Cross-cloud, download and upload.

Bandwidth-efficient media support

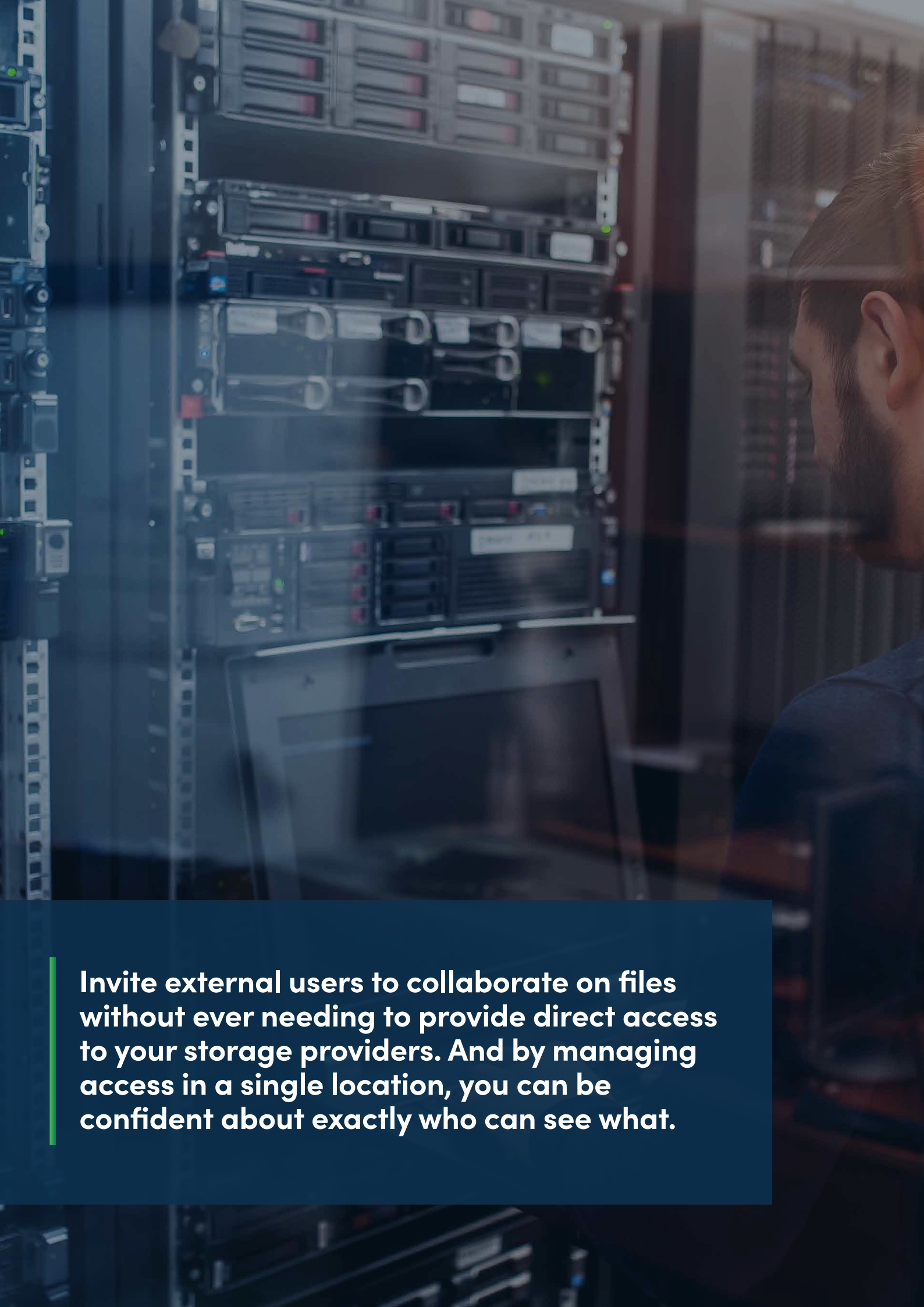
Media support including generation and smart caching of image thumbnail previews, scrubbing, transcoding rules, as well as transcription and metadata extraction.

Secure sharing

Use sharing policies to automatically determine how users can share data and collaborate with external users, such as requiring passwords to be set on shared folders, or offering timed, limited downloads.

SoftIron HyperDrive makes scalable, flexible storage a snap

SoftIron's HyperDrive family of data centre appliances can scale up to the petabyte level, smoothly matching your organisation's specific performance and capacity needs. Each appliance in the HyperDrive family is designed to take full advantage of Ceph's software-defined storage architecture and inherent support for object, block and file storage.



Invite external users to collaborate on files without ever needing to provide direct access to your storage providers. And by managing access in a single location, you can be confident about exactly who can see what.

Unified, future-proof storage

Utilise file, block and object storage with native protocols for clients, servers, and containers, all from a single interface. HyperDrive provides scale-out parallel file systems with unparalleled ease of operations thanks to the HyperDrive Storage Manager dashboard.

Achieve efficient storage tiering

The HyperDrive range includes both performance (SSD/NVMe) and capacity (HDD) appliances that can easily provide multiple storage tiers (hot, cold, archive) within a single name space.

Backup with immutability

SoftIron support for data immutability (also known as S3 Object lock) provides WORM (write once, ready many) capability that also provides protection from ransomware attacks by “locking” a known data set from change.

The first step in achieving secure provenance

We make our product design, hardware, software and realisation process transparent for audit, enabling customers to assert their own risk on deploying our products in their mission-critical infrastructure. This ‘zero trust’ approach is critical for businesses that wish to mitigate the risk of supply-chain attacks.

Wire speed performance, without the wires

Performance is nothing without reliability. HyperDrive delivers both, thanks to its high speed backplane, designed to operate at up to 6 terabits per second.

That’s perfect data transmission at wire speeds, with wire-free reliability 24/7/365 ++.

Full support for multi-tenancy

Centrally manage data bucket quotas, data durability per pool and tiered storage services within a single platform. Provide the robustness and resilience of a storage system designed never to lose data.

Flexibly scale up or down as you need

SoftIron offers an OPEX model for HyperDrive - only pay for what you need, with minimal barriers to scaling out when required.

Maintain data integrity

Monitor cluster health with HyperDrive Storage Manager, and ensure your data stays fresh with Ceph’s data scrubs, providing a bit-for-bit comparison of your replicated data, protecting against bit-rot.

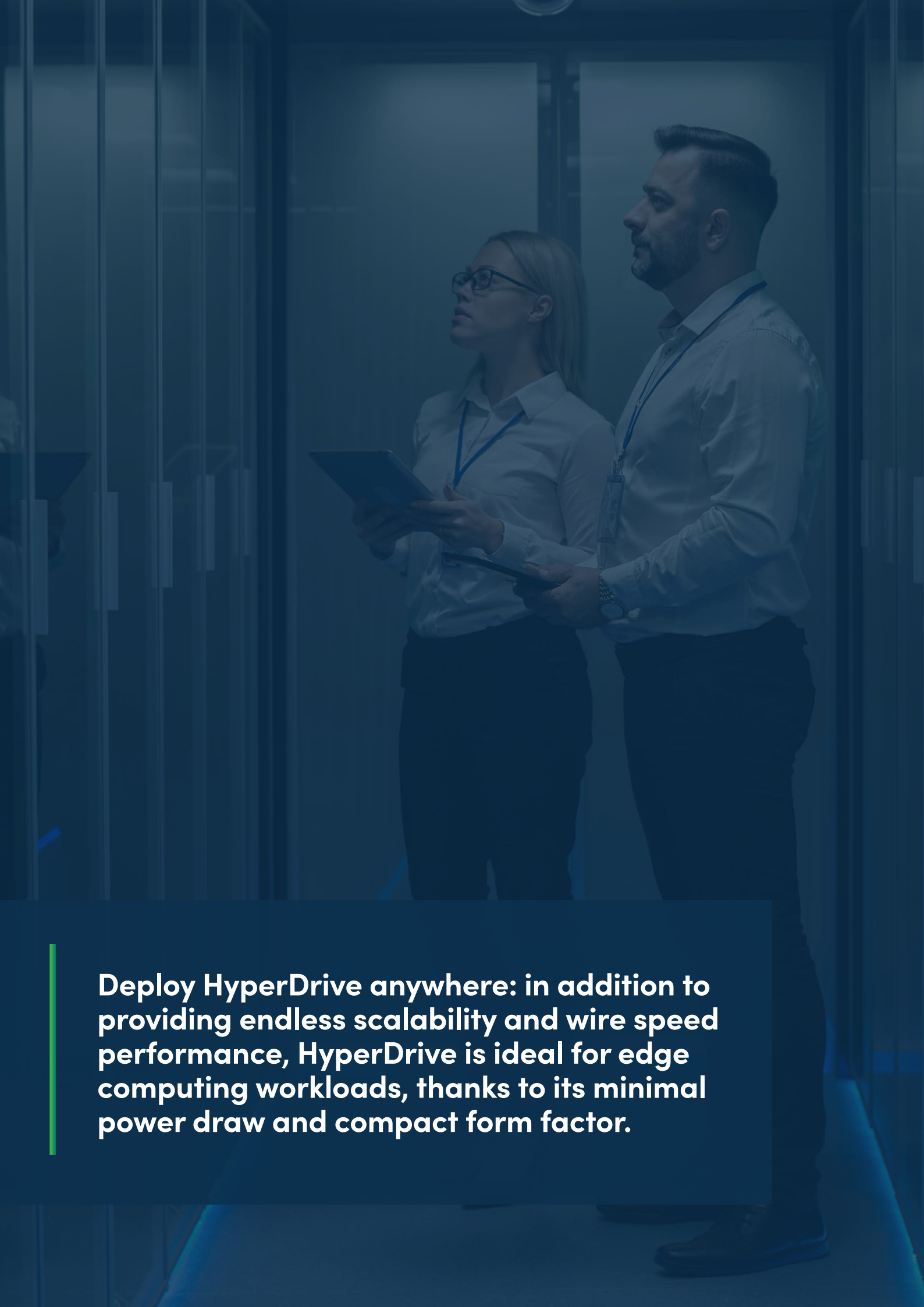
Deploy anywhere, even at the edge

HyperDrive offers power-efficient, hyper-dense storage in a 1U form factor allowing you to maximise the storage potential of every rack. Combined with its hyper-efficient cooling features, HyperDrive is ideal for all kinds of edge use cases, whether you’re collaborating across geographies or running services from the back of a commercial vehicle.

Effortless scalability, with no vendor lock-in

For too long businesses have had to choose between the limitations of integrated proprietary hardware and software solutions, or the complexity of a DIY approach.

HyperDrive unites the power of a proprietary system with the flexibility of open source Ceph - so you can grow and modify your cluster to suit your needs, with no limiting contracts.



Deploy HyperDrive anywhere: in addition to providing endless scalability and wire speed performance, HyperDrive is ideal for edge computing workloads, thanks to its minimal power draw and compact form factor.

Greater control, simpler multi-vendor storage management, and a clear path towards managing a globally distributed workforce.

A combination of Storage Made Easy's unifying Enterprise File Fabric and SoftIron HyperDrive will create a solution able to support your IT initiatives including:

- Centralised storage control,
- Standardised data governance,
- Secure remote collaboration,
- Managed BYOD strategies, and
- User self-service.

Additionally, if your organisation is planning for a cloud repatriation project, this unified solution offers greater cost predictability and control, allowing for a gradual shift of critical resources away from the public cloud and back into your own fully-controlled storage. Similarly transitioning to an edge computing approach can be handled progressively with minimal disruption to employees using Enterprise File Fabric and SoftIron's HyperDrive Ceph storage.

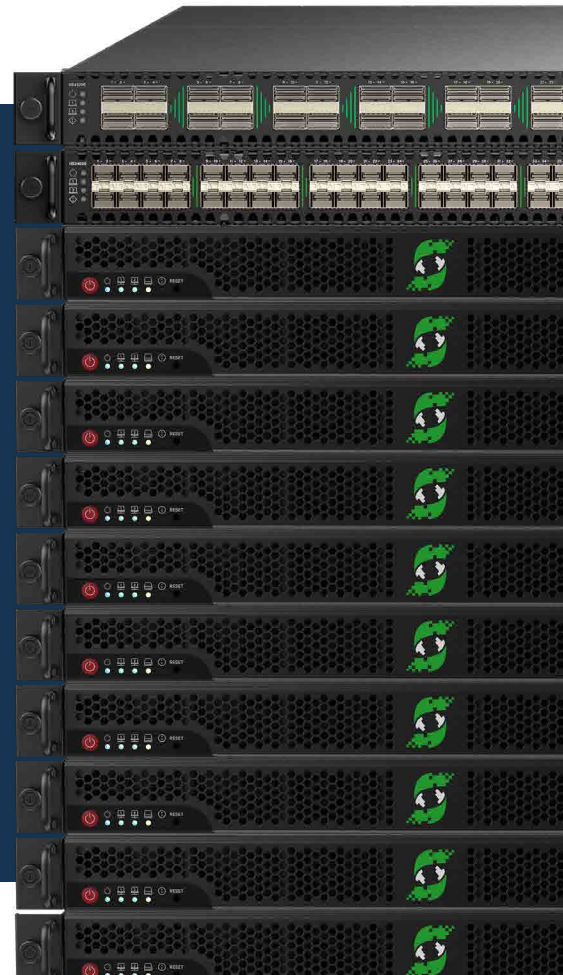
Could this solution work for you?

No guessing needed – just take HyperDrive for a test drive with an Enterprise File Fabric trial.

Storage Made Easy offers **obligation-free trial licenses** for Enterprise File Fabric, so you can see the benefits for yourself. And if you want to see it in action before then, you can book a detailed online demonstration session via their website.

Take a test drive

Combine this with SoftIron's **HyperDrive Test Drive**, which allows you to try HyperDrive in your environment with our pre-configured storage cluster for up to 90s days. If you decide to go ahead with HyperDrive, we offer flexible contracts without lock-in, and pay-as-you-go subscription pricing that can be canceled at any time.



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SoftIron® is the world-leader in task-specific appliances for scale-out data center solutions. Their superior, purpose-built hardware is designed, developed and assembled transparently, and they are the only manufacturer to offer secure provenance. SoftIron's HyperDrive® software-defined, enterprise storage portfolio runs at wire-speed and is custom-designed to optimize Ceph. HyperSwitch™ is their line of next-generation, top-of-rack switches built to maximize the performance and flexibility of SONiC. HyperCast™, built on FFmpeg, is their high-density, concurrent 4K transcoding solution, for multi-screen, multi-format delivery. SoftIron unlocks greater business value for enterprises by delivering best-in-class products, free from software and hardware lock-in. For more information visit [softiron.com](https://www.softiron.com)

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