IBM Spectrum Copy Data Management for Epic

Simplify and orchestrate copy management processes for healthcare data

Highlights

- Increase business agility and efficiency by better managing Epic EHR data copies

- Enable continued access to critical healthcare data with near-instant protection and rapid recovery capabilities

- Address copy sprawl by automating creation and full lifecycle management of data copies

- Simplify and modernize with customized workflows that require little or no manual management

- Transform IT processes and reduce costs with an "in place" copy data management (CDM) solution using existing storage hardware

Today's modern healthcare organizations rely on electronic health records (EHRs) to make sure that vital patient data is available when and where it's needed. Epic is a leading EHR provider, with 54 percent of all US patients being served by healthcare organizations that use Epic solutions.[1] In order to ensure continued access to the data these systems contain, they must be secured with a robust data protection and disaster recovery strategy.

At the same time, healthcare providers must implement their data protection and disaster recovery strategy without the high costs and inefficiency caused by "copy sprawl": when large amounts of storage capacity are eaten up by unnecessary or duplicate data copies. In order to address this issue, healthcare IT needs to simplify and automate the process of copy data management. By doing so, organizations can limit copy sprawl and improve efficiency without the need for database administrators to spend hours manually performing management tasks.

IBM® Spectrum Copy Data Management can help healthcare organizations achieve this goal. By cataloging, automating and managing snapshot and data copies, this powerful tool can help healthcare organizations build a strong data protection and recovery strategy without falling victim to copy sprawl. As a result, these organizations can take full advantage of EHR data while keeping costs down and efficiency up. This software-defined storage offering works with existing infrastructure to offer ease of management, near-instant protection and rapid recovery of Epic data.

Modernize IT with IBM Spectrum Copy Data Management

IBM Spectrum CDM provides an end-to-end suite of services that can help your organization track, create, refresh and manage your data copies. Featuring template-based management and orchestration capabilities, IBM Spectrum CDM utilizes the copy services within your existing storage and hypervisor infrastructure, such as IBM FlashCopy® or IBM Spectrum Protect™ Snapshot. With just a few quick clicks, users can create automated workflows that take care of everything for them, leaving them free to focus their efforts on more high-value tasks.

These copy management capabilities can also be applied across many different data center environments, including on-premises, hybrid and cloud, giving you common visibility, control and consistency across all the data you store. This makes the data center administrator's life easier by reducing complexity and ensuring data copies are removed as soon as

they're no longer needed. This helps limit the amount of resources dedicated to storing unnecessary data copies, which in turn contributes to lower costs.

IBM Spectrum CDM provides the benefit of managing and orchestrating data copies "in place", without disruption to your existing environment. While other standalone CDM solutions require a dedicated environment for copy data storage and management, IBM Spectrum CDM allows you to transform and modernize IT processes utilizing existing storage systems from IBM and third party vendors like EMC and NetApp. By eliminating copy sprawl and utilizing this in-place CDM approach, you can unify management and reduce costs.

With IBM Spectrum CDM, you get ease of management throughout the data copy lifecycle, from creation all the way through to deletion. See Figure 1 for an overview of the scope of the copy data lifecycle that IBM Spectrum CDM addresses.
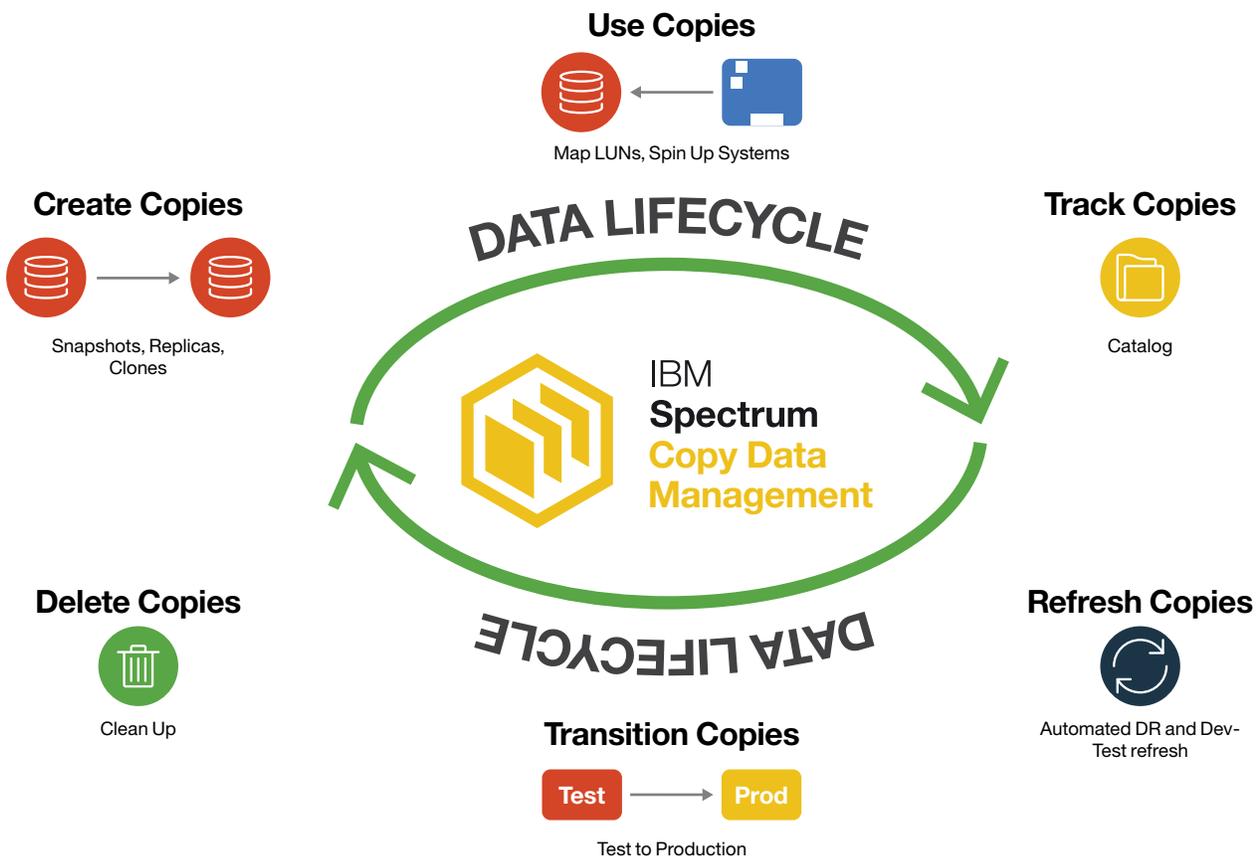

Figure 1: IBM Spectrum Copy Data Management data lifecycle

About the copy data management process

When you create a snapshot using IBM Spectrum CDM for Epic, the solution will perform the following steps automatically, as shown in Figure 2:

• Quiesce the Caché database
• Freeze the file system
• Initiate IBM FlashCopy
• Unfreeze the file system
• Unquiesce the Caché database

The snapshots are created locally on the storage environment. Then, IBM Spectrum CDM can take advantage of built-in storage capabilities — such as IBM Global Mirror — to quickly and easily move the snapshots to remote locations where they can be safely stored. As a result, healthcare organizations get the kind of data security an effective Epic EHR environment demands, with multiple snapshots that could be restored in case of corruption. Best of all, this happens automatically, with little need for time-consuming manual intervention.
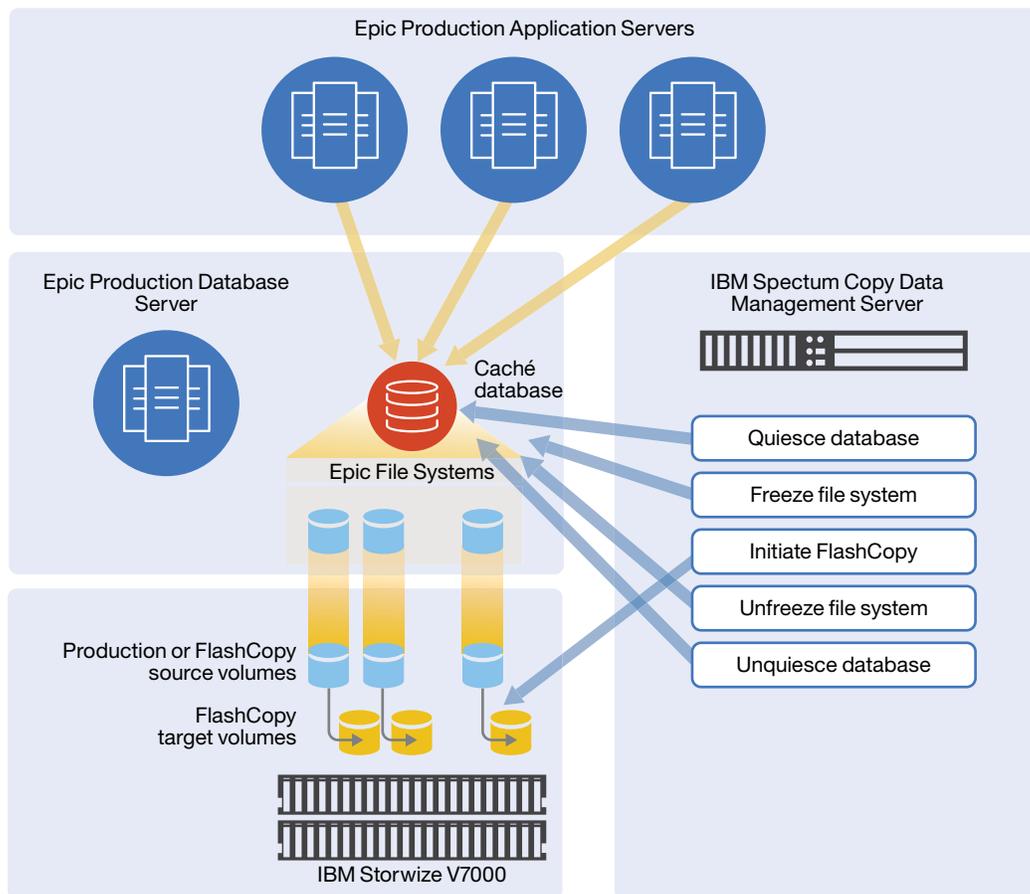

Figure 2: Example IBM Spectrum Copy Data Management configuration

Epic and IBM Storage

As stated by Epic, their software deployments span midsize and large medical groups, hospitals and integrated healthcare organizations. According to the company, 190 million patients have a current electronic record in Epic software.[2] IBM has an extensive track record of providing high performance and efficient infrastructure solutions to support healthcare systems, including EHRs. For over 10 years, IBM has collaborated with Epic to help organizations optimize their healthcare environments. The close technical working relationship that IBM and Epic have cultivated helps provide fully optimized healthcare IT solutions for our joint customers.

According to HealthcareIT News, Epic products rely almost exclusively on InterSystems Caché to manage the massive amounts of patient data they regularly access.[3] Caché is an advanced database management system that can interface directly with IBM storage systems, which can help support performance, scalability and reliability for Epic workloads.

Pairing IBM Spectrum CDM with your Epic software environments can help you implement the data protection and recovery strategy your organization needs, without creating the high costs and inefficiencies that would traditionally be associated with such a strategy. Building out the infrastructure with complementary systems like IBM Power Systems™ and VersaStack™ converged infrastructure, and all-flash storage systems like IBM Storwize® V7000F and IBM FlashSystem® A9000 will increase the efficiency, performance and data economics of your Epic environment.

For more information

To learn more about IBM Spectrum Copy Data Management, contact your IBM representative, or visit **ibm.com**/systems/storage/spectrum/copy-data-management.

To learn more about Epic software, visit http://www.epic.com/software.

1 "Epic Systems draws on literature greats for its next expansion." Wisconsin State Journal, (http://host.madison.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/epic-systems-draws-on-literature-greats-for-its-next-expansion/article_4d1cf67c-2abf-5cfd-8ce1-2da60ed84194.html)

2 http://www.epic.com/about

3 http://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/what-does-intersystems-cach%C3%A9-have-do-epic

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