aws marketplace

Panzura CloudFS

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users

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Product Recap

Panzura CloudFS

Panzura CloudFS Recap

Panzura CloudFS connects data across a distributed network, offering an efficient solution for file storage and management in a cloud environment.

Designed for businesses needing robust data management, Panzura CloudFS enables seamless access and high availability by providing advanced capabilities for distributed file systems. This technology ensures collaboration and data consistency across multiple locations, optimizing enterprise storage strategies and enhancing data governance and compliance. Effective in reducing latency and operational complexity, it addresses the demands of global enterprises seeking scalable and reliable cloud file services.

What are the key features of Panzura CloudFS?

- Global File System: Offers a unified view of file storage across multiple sites.
- Data Consolidation: Merges various data silos into a single, cohesive storage network.
- Security and Compliance: Ensures data protection with built-in encryption and compliance features.
- High Availability: Provides continuous access to data with fault-tolerant architecture.
- Quick Deployment: Enables rapid integration into existing infrastructure with minimal downtime.

What benefits and ROI should users consider?

- Cost Reduction: Minimizes data storage costs through efficient use of cloud storage.
- Improved Collaboration: Facilitates real-time file access and sharing across geographies.
- Scalability: Supports growing data needs without significant infrastructure investment.
- Enhanced Productivity: Reduces operational inefficiencies with streamlined data management.
- Security Enhancements: Protects critical data assets with advanced security measures.

Panzura CloudFS finds applications in sectors such as finance, healthcare, and media, where data integrity and accessibility are critical. Financial institutions benefit from secure and synchronized data access, while healthcare providers utilize it for managing patient data across locations. The media industry leverages its capabilities for collaboration and efficient media file handling worldwide.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

✔ "Primarily, it is the way Panzura CloudFS handles the file locks and the way these filers, along with the authoritative copy of all our data, which is about 27 terabytes located in an AWS bucket in the cloud, operate."

Roger Clark

I.T. Infrastructure Manager at Thompson Engineering

✔ "It is a very solid product. We keep all of our older files on their system. It is easy to restore if a file gets deleted. We have good disaster recovery. It is very reliable and very quick, and we do not have files that get overwritten because it locks the file."

Andy Knauf

CIO at Mead and Hunt, Inc.

✔ "The core function of Panzura CloudFS, with its synchronizing of files across multiple servers, provides us with a much more efficient workflow for our production staff."

Erin Atkinson

Senior Vice President, Technology at Halff Associates, Inc.

✔ "The best features of the Panzura CloudFS solution include collaboration, which is my top priority and top feature. No one else provides this as effectively."

Siva_Ram

Technical Expert at a manufacturing company with 10,001+ employees

✔ "What I appreciate most about Panzura CloudFS is that it really solves the problem we had when we moved all our server workloads to Azure, reducing our on-prem data center footprint sizably. We don't have to maintain a huge on-prem storage array, which is nice. It just works, and we haven't had any issues this whole time."

Matt Sarsam

Senior Systems Administrator at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

✔ "Panzura CloudFS has helped to increase the network resilience by 100%."

Dragan Lazic

Information Technology Manager at The Gateway Engineers, Inc.

✔ "The staff went above and beyond to make sure our experience was perfect, even surprising us with a special dessert for our anniversary."

Brad Fortney

IT Manager at Thrasher Group

What users had to say about valuable features:

"The best feature for us is the high availability and the security peace of mind. That has been an excellent feature for us over the past few years and has really helped us out of several tight spots. ."

Verified user   Read full review ↗
Director of IT at a manufacturing company with 51-200 employees

"What I appreciate the most about Panzura CloudFS is that it just works; it provides enterprise-level application across all our offices and simplifies administration. Since the product works so well, we don't have to have a lot of issues or downtime. It helps us to be more efficient and more productive.

We've been able to increase network resilience. We've had double-digit growth for years now, and Panzura helped us achieve that.."

Dragan Lazic   Read full review ↗
Information Technology Manager at The Gateway Engineers, Inc.

"The best features are the synchronization between locations, the speed at which it presents those files to the users, and phenomenal support.

My impressions of Panzura CloudFS's ability to consolidate data are very high because they have been aggressively evolving the product, listening to their customers, and making those changes where possible. They have done an outstanding job of listening to customers and solving their problems as the product evolved.

In the five years that I've been using Panzura CloudFS, they have actually addressed issues with performance, stability, and recoverability. They are constantly evolving that product in a good way.."

Brad Fortney   Read full review [↗]
IT Manager at Thrasher Group

"Primarily, it is the way Panzura CloudFS handles the file locks and the way these filers, along with the authoritative copy of all our data, which is about 27 terabytes located in an AWS bucket in the cloud, operate. There is a master filer that handles all the subordinates. Having the filers on-site at our larger offices enables our engineers to cache metadata at that location. It enables them to work anywhere, but it looks like they are in the same LAN. There is no degradation of speed because these filers have cached the data, and they are constantly swapping metadata and updating with each other, which is a very attractive method of getting us to use these applications.

It has been very easy to use. The assistance of support has been excellent. Over the years, I have seen their ease of use improve significantly. They are offering new products within their system. They have committed to that track and have not strayed. They have gotten better and better over time. In the beginning, there were always buggy issues. When something was bleeding edge, it had to be worked out, but they got through that. We stuck with them, and it has become a good global file system for the company.."

Roger Clark   Read full review ↗
I.T. Infrastructure Manager at Thompson Engineering

"The best features of the Panzura CloudFS solution include collaboration, which is my top priority and top feature. No one else provides this as effectively. Even though NetApp is a big player in file storage, they do not offer this level of collaboration. Additionally, you can change any access point. Everything is simplified, meaning any user with basic storage knowledge can work on Panzura CloudFS due to its user-friendly menu.

We have seen improvements such as data compression, which is really good. It effectively manages hot data. Files accessed frequently are stored and synchronized across different locations. For instance, if an application server is hosted in the USA, users in Canada can access files swiftly without latency because hot data is synchronized to their local systems.

It also offers good auditing capabilities. In case of file deletions or permission changes, they can monitor everything, such as who did what, from which IP address, which system they connected to, and at what time. They can grab all the data. ."

Siva_Ram
Technical Expert at a manufacturing company with 10,001+ employees

Read full review ⧉

"The core function of Panzura CloudFS, with its synchronizing of files across multiple servers, provides us with a much more efficient workflow for our production staff.

We do have Detect and Rescue enabled. We haven't had to use the Rescue feature.

Panzura provides very good granular snapshots. We can establish the snapshots that meet our needs, including how often they occur.

It's easy to manage data using Panzura. It's just like managing any other Windows file system.

We use Panzura Edge in a limited capacity. The use cases we identified have been successful, and we will renew.

Panzura has not increased its data storage costs. The cost of the storage is the same, yet we have more capabilities.

It helps us increase network resilience. We have a primary object library stored in the cloud and have Panzura Mirroring which allows us to place data in a secondary cloud for added resiliency. ."

Erin Atkinson   Read full review [↗]
Senior Vice President, Technology at Halff Associates, Inc.

Other Solutions Considered

"I haven't used any alternatives to Panzura CloudFS. We looked at a few other products before our decision, but those were mostly demos and not used live in production.."

Matt Sarsam   Read full review ↗
Senior Systems Administrator at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

"We reached out to several other consulting firms that are similar to half and asked them what their experiences were and how effective it was. Panzura CloudFS had the best track record from the people that we reached out to.."

Erin Atkinson   Read full review ↗
Senior Vice President, Technology at Halff Associates, Inc.

"We have had everything from old-school self-hosted SMB file shares to NetApp. We had another solution prior as well. We have had several different offerings for our file shares. None of them do quite what Panzura CloudFS does. There are extra features with Panzura CloudFS, and it has more power than any of those tools offer.."

Verified user   Read full review ⬈

Director of IT at a manufacturing company with 51-200 employees

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"I don't have any firsthand experience with the other products or vendors on the market other than looking at them. I've talked to peer review folks and other engineering firms, and there were good and bad experiences with everything as you would expect, but Panzura CloudFS is the market leader in that space as far as the engineering firms are concerned for a good reason, and they do a great job.."

Brad Fortney   Read full review ⬈

IT Manager at Thrasher Group

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

"It's hard to calculate the return on investment regarding productivity, but after doing it the old-fashioned way with servers, we've seen at least an 80% return on that.."

Brad Fortney   Read full review ↗
IT Manager at Thrasher Group

"It has helped increase our organization's network resilience, but it is hard to quantify. Panzura is a hundred percent better than what we had before. Previously, we had latency issues with syncing up files between offices. Files were not locked, leading to overwrites which cost us literally hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost time and revenue. Since transitioning to Panzura, it has been like a night-and-day difference.."

Andy Knauf   Read full review ↗
CIO at Mead and Hunt, Inc.

Use Case

"My use case for Panzura CloudFS involves having multiple offices in the United States, and we use it to share all our file structure between the offices.."

Dragan Lazic   Read full review ↗
Information Technology Manager at The Gateway Engineers, Inc.

"My organization's storage for our production staff is on-site, and we are spread across 30 offices. This setup makes it much easier for us to workshare between staff and disparate geographic locations.."

Erin Atkinson   Read full review ↗
Senior Vice President, Technology at Halff Associates, Inc.

"It's a service product. Whenever you write data and want to save it to the cloud, the Panzura mediator acts as the go-between.

It's a good product, and I learned a lot when I was at Panzura. It's a file-based product.."

Anil Rahulwar   Read full review ↗
Storage Engineer at Movate

"My use cases for Panzura CloudFS include syncing it as file storage for primarily lab data. We are a biotech life science company, and we are using it as a target to write data that comes off lab machines, accessible from user workstations if needed, and syncing it to the cloud due to our sizable cloud presence.."

Matt Sarsam
Senior Systems Administrator at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

Read full review ↗

"Panzura CloudFS is our primary solution for file servers and resiliency for our file shares. We have been demoing Panzura's Symphony tool, which has demonstrated many capabilities for automating and moving data. Beyond Symphony, we consolidated every file share and NAS in the organization over to Panzura CloudFS. It has done a great job with that.."

Verified user
Director of IT at a manufacturing company with 51-200 employees

Read full review ↗

"Primarily, we are an AEC firm that utilizes Panzura CloudFS for our file structure for our AEC applications, such as AutoCAD, Bentley, Revit, and various applications that are very chatty in a normal environment. We take advantage of Panzura CloudFS's traveling file locks to create a global namespace for our entire company. We have about ten or eleven filers throughout our region that support the function of the traveling file locks and enable us to use chatty AEC applications.."

Roger Clark
I.T. Infrastructure Manager at Thompson Engineering

Read full review [↗]

Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

"Though I didn't own the implementation, I was present at the time. The time to value was pretty quick. We made the cutover fast, and the value from there was immediate.."

Verified user   Read full review ↗

Director of IT at a manufacturing company with 51-200 employees

"The initial deployment was long with the amount of data we have. It was not difficult, it was just lengthy due to the amount of data that had to be sent to the cloud.

For the deployment of Panzura CloudFS, the number of people required really depends on the size of the company. We had two people working on our deployment.

Panzura CloudFS takes care of all the maintenance. We just schedule the outage with them.."

Dragan Lazic   Read full review ↗

Information Technology Manager at The Gateway Engineers, Inc.

"The initial deployment of Panzura CloudFS was easy. We worked with professional services who helped map it out and deploy and configure a handful of our filers while a migration team handled moving all the data, making it a straightforward process.

The full deployment of Panzura CloudFS took about 3 to 4 weeks from when we started setting up the filers to when all the data was migrated over. Slow transfer speeds affected the migration time.

After the deployment, Panzura CloudFS does not require any extensive maintenance. We've done a couple of upgrades as routine maintenance and a little reconfiguration after about a year for better resiliency, which was more of a business need than a product change.."

Matt Sarsam   Read full review [↗]

Senior Systems Administrator at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

"The initial setup was somewhat easy and difficult. Panzura dispatched a person to be onsite with us for a week. This was an intense time since our EMC SAN was nearing full capacity, requiring us to quickly transition to the cloud. They helped us understand Panzura's functionality and commitment. It saved us from that saturation point of the on-site on-prem storage.

It does not require any maintenance per se. We are pretty set in the way where we do our file shares and things just work. Once it is up, it runs. If there is an issue with the filer going offline, we can have problems with the users who are on that file. Files get locked and become read-only, but that is just the way the system works. That is more of a support issue requiring getting into the call and opening the case. They are very responsive at that point. That is just the nature of how Panzura is developed or is running. If you lose a filer and people have files open, they become read-only, so you could save them locally and use them until that filer gets back online, snapshots catch up, and metadata spreads around. I would not call it maintenance; it is more support-initiated.."

Roger Clark   Read full review ↗

I.T. Infrastructure Manager at Thompson Engineering

"We have Panzura CloudFS deployed at locations using VMware. We've deployed it as images locally, and we're switching to Hyper-V because of that whole debacle with VMware's pricing.

Regarding the deployment of Panzura CloudFS, it was very simple. I've racked servers for decades now, and I've rolled stuff out and had to move data around for new equipment, and it was very easy to point it at our existing data and just pull it right in.

The deployment took approximately a week, and I made the whole switch over on a weekend. We had pre-copied the stuff off. I came in on a Saturday morning and left here at 2:00 in the afternoon. Everything was completely flipped over in 8 to 10 hours.

The solution requires maintenance from my end. Whenever they release a new version, I schedule it with them during off hours, and they go ahead and upgrade them, and I double-check everything, usually it's done in six or seven hours.."

Brad Fortney   Read full review ↗
IT Manager at Thrasher Group

"The deployment of Panzura CloudFS is not complex. It uses an OVA file format, and although it requires careful configuration following vendor instructions, anyone with basic storage knowledge can manage administrative tasks easily after a few days of familiarization.

Implementation of Panzura CloudFS is quick; it sets up very easily and does not take long.

The implementation does not take more than half an hour with the setup of computer resources and installation of the OS; adding new devices to a ring does take more time, as metadata synchronization occurs based on the network speed.

Panzura CloudFS can be deployed in both cloud and on-premises environments without limitations. Two to three years ago, there was a discussion about compatibility with seven different S3 storage providers. I know AWS and Google are compatible, though I'm unsure about how Azure works.

It can be deployed hybrid, which I heard is possible, and we are certain that cloud deployment works fine; so far, we have not faced any latency issues, and on-premises deployment also operates smoothly.."

Siva_Ram
Read full review ↗

Technical Expert at a manufacturing company with 10,001+ employees

Customer Service and Support

"I would give the support for Panzura CloudFS a ten out of ten because they are responsive and helpful. We wish many other companies we deal with were as good.."

Matt Sarsam   Read full review ↗
Senior Systems Administrator at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

"Most of the time, their response time is good. We have had a few tickets that have lingered, and we worked with our technical point of contact to make sure that they were addressed in a more timely fashion.."

Erin Atkinson   Read full review ↗
Senior Vice President, Technology at Halff Associates, Inc.

"The support has been good. We have had stretches in the past that were not as good, but over 12 years with someone, you are going to have some ups and downs. The support staff and the number of people they have on staff right now are truly good.."

Andy Knauf   Read full review ↗
CIO at Mead and Hunt, Inc.

"Their support has been excellent. When we have a priority-one issue, we typically receive a call within 20 to 30 minutes. They are responsive if you have a file lock issue or you are experiencing downtime. I usually open a ticket on the portal, and they get back in a very timely fashion. The engineering team helps with version upgrades and deployments.

I would rate them an eight out of ten. The reason for that is that we have had circumstances in the last few years where we did run into some bugs with the operating system, and they took a long time to resolve them. Several of our files were zero bytes with no data and not recoverable. That happens with any company. They had an issue with the development in one of the versions of their operating system. They call it the PZOS operating system. However, I still enjoy the support from Panzura because they are very responsible.."

Roger Clark
I.T. Infrastructure Manager at Thompson Engineering

Read full review ↗

Other Advice

"I would say to a colleague who prefers using big-name software companies that Panzura CloudFS is a solid solution. It's a solution that works, it's priced appropriately, and their support is good.

On a scale from one to ten, I rate Panzura CloudFS a ten.."

Dragan Lazic
Information Technology Manager at The Gateway Engineers, Inc.

"I would recommend this solution to other users simply because they have the ability to solve problems, and after you do it, you'll understand why.

I would rate Panzura CloudFS overall a nine out of ten. More competitive pricing would make the solution a ten out of ten.."

Brad Fortney
IT Manager at Thrasher Group

"To a colleague who prefers big-name software companies, I would say that Panzura CloudFS just works. I feel there's only one name that jumps out in their space. Many people don't fully understand the space they operate in, so it would be beneficial to just take a look and give it a try.

My overall rating for Panzura CloudFS is a nine out of ten.."

Matt Sarsam
Senior Systems Administrator at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

Read full review ↗

"We are Panzura customers only.

I would advise others to take a serious look at Panzura CloudFS to see if it meets their business needs. It has been a solid product for us, and it was a good fit for the way in which we operate.

I would give it an eight out of ten.."

Erin Atkinson
Senior Vice President, Technology at Halff Associates, Inc.

Read full review ↗

"To someone who prefers using big-name software companies, I would say that Panzura's attention to detail and support have been very good. The support function from the backend has been very good. The engineers I have worked with while deploying new filers, moving them, or decommissioning them have been good. They do a lot of work from the backend including version upgrades. They stage on the backend for us to upgrade all of our filers at one time. Their support has been excellent. It means a lot to have that kind of support in our environment.

I would rate the overall solution an eight out of ten.."

Roger Clark
I.T. Infrastructure Manager at Thompson Engineering

Read full review ↗

"I cannot compare Panzura CloudFS directly with other vendors accurately; while NetApp has more features for NFS service, especially in security, Panzura excels in collaboration and its cloud file service; however, its NFS service lags in various aspects, with room for improvement.

I would recommend Panzura CloudFS to other users for its collaboration features and access points, but I advise caution regarding NFS service issues that require improvement, especially for Unix-based critical applications. However, for teams using Windows machines, my experience has been greatly positive.

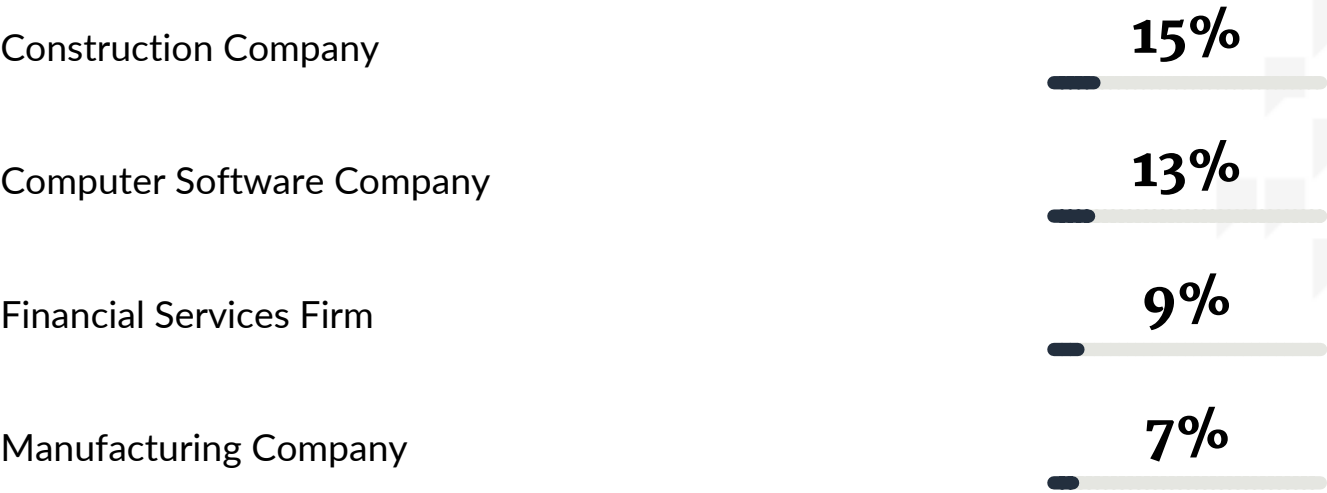Overall, I would rate Panzura CloudFS an eight out of ten.."

Siva_Ram
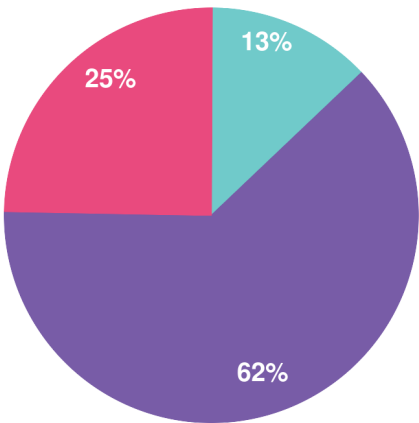Technical Expert at a manufacturing company with 10,001+ employees

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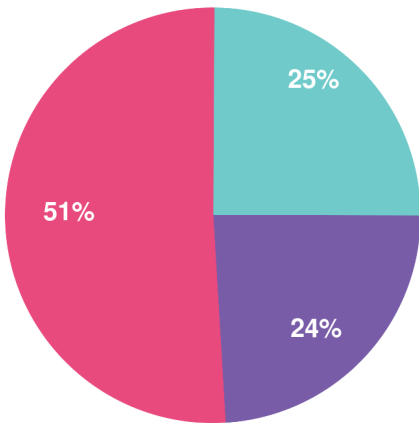# Top Industries
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15%

Computer Software Company

13%

Financial Services Firm

9%

Manufacturing Company

7%

Company Size

by reviewers

by visitors reading reviews

13%

25%

62%

25%

51%

24%

● Large Enterprise   ● Midsize Enterprise   ● Small Business

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