

Get the Most Out of Your Isilon with StrongLink

- Maximize the ROI of your Isilon
- Seamlessly connect your Isilon to any other storage and the cloud.
- Backup your Isilon without SyncIQ

A key reason that Isilon storage is selected across so many industries is the reliability and modular simplicity of the platform. But this simplicity comes at a cost, and one which becomes ever more painful as the volume of data continually grows.

The problem is how to retain the benefits of Isilon while also having the freedom to add other storage types, including cloud. Or how to simplify SyncIQ backups or other repetitive time-consuming backups of often unchanged data. And how to do this in a way that never interrupts user access and which also reduces complexity and risk for IT administrators.

Isilon customers love their Isilons but they also want to reduce costs. They want the flexibility of a global namespace that can include any other storage platform, including cloud.

Extending My Isilon into a Policy-based Global Namespace

A familiar use-case is when an Isilon cluster is filling up, and IT is faced with deciding whether to buy more Isilon, or move data to another platform or archive. There are two problems that usually occur:

- 1 - IT administrators are often unsure of which data they can move to cheaper storage or cloud, or which data they can delete. Often users themselves don't know for sure what they have.
- 2 - Even if they know which data they want to move, IT Administrators are prevented from doing so because it would interrupt user access, or require retraining users and applications to know where the data has gone.

With StrongLink both of these problems go away; StrongLink automatically tiers data from the Isilon to other storage types or the cloud or both without ever interrupting user access. Because all data is visible in the global namespace across all storage types, users never see a change, nor are they ever interrupted. The data is just there. And because StrongLink includes multiple levels of data integrity checks, backups with SyncIQ or other solutions can be reduced or eliminated.

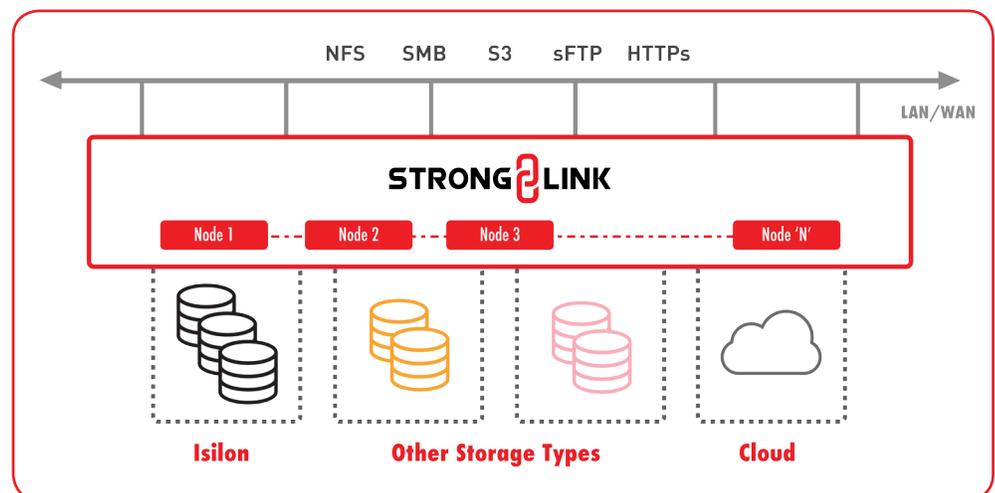


Fig 1.: StrongLink breaks through incompatible storage silos, creating a global namespace across them all. Your Isilons can be seamlessly extended to include third-party disk and cloud, with unified access to all via any protocol. All this is transparent to users.

Seamlessly
extend your Isilon
with any third-party
storage or the cloud
without altering
user access.

Automatic Data Classification

With StrongLink, all the data is automatically classified by aggregating multiple metadata types within the system from across any file system or storage type, including cloud. And because this extends a global namespace across all storage types, user access is unchanged regardless of where the data is stored.

This capability enables you to seamlessly extend your Isilon to any third-party storage or the cloud, to tier or archive data from the Isilon without altering user access.

Another benefit of this is that StrongLink enables IT Administrators global management of all storage resources, regardless of vendor. The real-time data classification enables them to get automated utilization reports across all storage types to determine the type and status of data, how often it is accessed, as well as other reports based upon any of multiple metadata types.

With the power of this global view that bridges file-systems and locations, it would take an administrator only a few minutes to generate a global utilization report across all storage resources. Administrators can customize reports, for example, to do a 'show-back' report based upon a Project ID or other metadata, which could include multiple types of data across different storage storage platforms.

How Do I Migrate Data Without Taking People Offline?

Which brings us to the second problem noted above: As useful as these types of reports might be, just having that information alone does not solve the problem of how to migrate data without interrupting user access. It is precisely for this reason that data often remains stuck in expensive storage silos.

This is where StrongLink's Artificial Intelligence-powered policy engine comes into play. The policy engine within StrongLink can be triggered on any of the metadata fragments that it has aggregated from files on the Isilon and other storage. This includes not only file system metadata, such as access times, ACLs, etc. But it could also be user-created metadata that relates to a project workflow, or any other variable.

In this way, any of the metadata variables can be used to trigger a policy that moves seldom-accessed data from the Isilon to an object store, or cloud store, or any other platform required. This migration occurs in the background within the global namespace. From a user or application perspective, the data looks as if it has not even moved.

Breaking Silos, Reducing Backup, Increasing Choices

As a unified solution for both data AND storage resource management, StrongLink is architected with multiple layers of data integrity checks to ensure that data is fully protected throughout its life-cycle.

The ability to extend these capabilities across multiple file systems and storage types means that our customers are finding they can reduce or eliminate backups with SynclQ or other backup applications.

For data environments looking for a way to get the best utilization for their Isilon investment but who are also looking to take advantage of other storage options that might be more cost effective for some of their data, StrongLink is the perfect solution.

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