Storage administrators are routinely challenged to manage, discover and protect information stored in Microsoft SharePoint environments. This popular collaboration platform rapidly increases demand for storage, which can limit SharePoint server performance as the environment grows. Hitachi Data Systems and AvePoint now offer a new and unique solution to keep up with growing storage demands and manage compliance throughout the content lifecycle. This enterprise-level, single-site, highly available SharePoint content repository solution builds on the powerful combination of Hitachi Content Platform and AvePoint DocAve Software Platform. It offers solid performance, scalability and flexibility to keep your business-critical applications operating and accessible, while your data is secured.

As SharePoint environments expand, end users further adopt SharePoint as a business-critical collaboration tool. Organizations must mitigate the resulting exponential data growth while keeping capital and operational expenditures under budget.

What is the key to reducing SharePoint’s total cost of ownership (TCO) and ensuring high performance levels throughout SharePoint’s content lifecycle? Microsoft SharePoint’s SQL Server database resources must be managed efficiently. Hitachi Content Platform and AvePoint DocAve Software Platform combine to offer intelligent SharePoint SQL database storage optimization. The solution provides platform-level backup and recovery for SharePoint, and reduces SQL licensing costs as storage capacity increases.
The Hitachi Content Platform and AvePoint DocAve solution for SharePoint single-site configurations provides comprehensive, enterprise-level protection for SharePoint deployments in the same data center.

Data Management and Storage Challenges
A single-site enterprise deployment of SharePoint compounds data management and storage challenges. Administrators must ensure that data is always highly available.

SharePoint traditionally grows and scales through its content databases. Without proper planning, allowing a SharePoint content database to grow in size will negatively impact SharePoint performance for your users. Thus, it is important to properly plan and monitor your SharePoint content database deployment. Microsoft recommends that the SharePoint content database should not exceed 200GB. Therefore, it may be necessary to create, manage and maintain multiple SQL databases in order to achieve the best performance and availability.

The addition of more SQL databases can drive up costs and further complicate management. Adding to this scenario are issues with item-level content retention, management, backup and granular restore of items in the databases. Essential SharePoint data is persistent and can quickly become stale, consuming the most expensive and fastest Tier 1 storage systems with inactive content (see Figure 1). This scenario quickly becomes overwhelming without an effective SharePoint governance solution. The powerful combination of Hitachi Content Platform with AvePoint DocAve Software Platform brings significant benefits to SharePoint content repositories (see Figure 2). The solution provides the ability to store and efficiently manage more than 10x the content in a single SQL database.

Solution Overview: Single Site Content Repository with High Availability
Hitachi Content Platform is a multipurpose object store that stores files and any associated metadata as objects. The AvePoint DocAve Software Platform assists organizations in managing and protecting their SharePoint content, and eases management of Microsoft SQL Server environments. The DocAve software solution allows binary large objects (BLOBs) to be migrated from the SharePoint content database, stored in SQL Server, to Hitachi Content Platform remote blob store (RBS). DocAve does this by leveraging fully supported Microsoft application interfaces (APIs) to define the rules by which the BLOBs are migrated from SQL over to Hitachi Content Platform.

Hitachi and AvePoint understand that SharePoint has become a business-critical application housing ever-increasing amounts of important company data. As such, these companies require their SharePoint data to be not only archived effectively but also readily available in the event of unplanned downtime. In this scenario, the solution can be deployed for a company with a single site that requires high availability of archived or tiered data.
### HITACHI CONTENT PLATFORM AND AVEPOINT DOCAVE: FEATURES AND BENEFITS

#### Increased Performance
- Improved performance and reduced storage costs as SharePoint storage is extended beyond Microsoft SQL database to Hitachi Content Platform.
- Fast and efficient offloading of binary large objects (BLOBs) from SQL.
- Improved SharePoint performance and reduced storage costs as content is externalized to Hitachi Content Platform in real time or on a scheduled basis with customizable rules.
- Fast restore of accidentally deleted or corrupted content, including restore of accidentally deleted sites with drastically reduced recovery point and time objectives (RPOs, RTOs).

#### Consolidation of Data
- Scalability up to 40PB and billions of objects that virtualize into multiple tenants and namespaces.
- Reduced complexity of Microsoft SharePoint storage architecture with object-based, metadata-aware, highly flexible storage systems.
- Quick return on investment (ROI).
- Index and search across multiple types of data and applications.

#### Enhanced Compliance
- Easily managed and enforced retention and compliance policies for the content lifecycle.
- Extension of SharePoint storage beyond SQL database, which allows for better auditing and archiving, as well as optimized performance and lowered costs.
- Compliance benefits, such as “write once, read many” (WORM) functionality, encryption of data at rest, legal hold, retention, auditing, digital shredding and chargeback.
- Full fidelity restoration of externalized SharePoint content for real data integrity.

#### Improved Efficiency
- Ability to divide content into several virtual content platforms, each with unique configuration and customizable storage policies.
- Effective access to all data, including metadata, for transparent and seamless end-user collaboration.
- Backupless environment with self replication and healing.
- Self-healing functions that continuously help self manage content integrity.
- Total cost of ownership (TCO) reductions.
- Storage optimization with Hitachi deduplication and compression capabilities.

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The Hitachi Content Platform and AvePoint DocAve solution for SharePoint single-site configurations provides comprehensive, enterprise-level protection for SharePoint deployments in the same data center. Each level of the solution is protected with complete redundancy, as displayed in Figure 3.

**Summary**

SharePoint has quickly become a de facto collaboration and content repository for companies around the world, leading to explosive data growth and governance headaches. Now the powerful combination of Hitachi Content Platform with AvePoint DocAve Software Platform offers organizations a turnkey enterprise solution for SharePoint environments that effectively manages the sprawl associated with SharePoint.

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**HITACHI CONTENT PLATFORM AND AVEPOINT DOCAVE: KEY DIFFERENTIATORS**

- Increased Microsoft SharePoint performance.
- Ability to find, migrate and consolidate SharePoint data.
- Enhanced SharePoint compliance.
- Improved SQL Server database efficiency.