



Alector Reduces Time Protecting SaaS Apps by 25% with Druva Compared to Previous Vendor

25%+

Time saved since implementing Druva to manage the Microsoft 365 environment

350

Microsoft 365 accounts protected 24x7

About Alector

San Francisco startup [Alector](#) was founded in 2013. The company is on a mission to slow the progression of neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and hopes one day to prevent their occurrence. By unlocking the power of immunology, neuroscience, and human genetics, Alector is trailblazing immuno-neurology — a visionary therapeutic approach to stop neurodegeneration.

The challenge

As is the case with many startups, the applications Alector requires to fulfill its mission are purchased, owned, and used by people in the business. When the company first started out, the business bought whatever was needed to complete its work — without IT oversight.

When Craig Guinasso joined Alector as the Sr. Director of Technology and Cybersecurity, the first thing he did was take ownership of those applications to provide sorely needed oversight. One thing he realized was the backup solution in place, Code42, wasn’t working — it didn’t always capture backups. In addition, the Code42 solution generated a huge amount of tickets for Alector’s four-person IT team, because the required agent made the processors spin out of control.



Challenges

- Applications purchased by the business resulted in data sprawl — they needed governance
- Lack of reliable data protection solution for their Microsoft 365 environment
- Lack of visibility into where data resides, making eDiscovery challenging
- Small team flooded with help desk tickets because Code42 caused machine errors

Solution

- The Druva Data Resiliency Cloud provides complete data protection for all of Alector’s applications
- Microsoft 365 data (including Exchange, OneDrive, Outlook, and Teams data) is protected and recoverable 24x7
- No longer reliant on Microsoft’s 90-day retention policy
- Druva’s Accelerated Ransomware Recovery Solution helps customers be better prepared and ready to respond in the event of an attack

Results

- All user-generated data is now in one deduplicated, indexed view
- Major reduction of help desk tickets, support team reclaimed 25% of time
- Druva Data Resiliency Cloud improves data governance by finding and holding data required for litigation requests

Guinasso faced more challenges when it came to the company's data. As a seasoned cybersecurity veteran, he wanted to know what products were on Alektor's network, what they were doing, who owned them, and who to contact if there was an issue. Also, he needed to know if the data was being backed up. Due to data sprawl, knowing where data resided was a challenge.

The solution

After a proof of concept with Druva on one just one system, Guinasso noted "moving to Druva was a no-brainer." Within hours, a full system was backed up, which this team looks at critically in terms of value in time savings.

Guinasso has been a long-time Druva user through four different companies, and many times has brought in Druva as a new vendor. Given that, Guinasso was confident in Druva's ability to protect Alektor's data and saw value in its advanced security and ransomware recovery capabilities.

The results

Guinasso says since adding Druva "our lives have gotten much better. IT is saving 25% of the four-person team's time after installing Druva."

Druva's simplicity is the big win for the team at Alektor. The Druva SaaS solution provides time savings as well. Guinasso commented, "We purchase it, we install it, and it just works." IT now has one deduplicated, indexed place to go for user-created data that serves as a single pane of glass view into Alektor's backups. In addition, the team leverages Druva's Accelerated Ransomware Recovery capabilities to continuously monitor the security posture of their backup environment and to improve their response and data recovery process in the event of an attack.

Druva has impacted Alektor's operations beyond backup. The organization was delighted to learn they have a "safe space" to perform a global search and extraction of HR and nonlitigation-related data. When it comes to litigation data, now Alektor has one place to find, hold, and examine the data.

According to Guinasso, "If it wasn't for the fact we had Druva, I don't know how we would have accomplished the volume of requests put in front of us."

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