



# 01 Syros Protects Computational Biology Data at Half the Cost of Legacy Backup

Founded in 2012, Syros Pharmaceuticals is a pioneering life sciences company focused on a new area of medicine called gene therapy. By creating medicines to control the expression of genes, Syros' goal is to make a profound difference in the lives of cancer patients and their families. As they transition from a research organization into a commercial pharmaceutical company, it was imperative that they upgrade their data protection infrastructure.

## The Challenge: No enterprise-wide ability to backup or recover research data

Prior to Igneous, Syros data lived on Isilon HD storage supported by 3rd party maintenance. The system was pieced together as the company (and their data) grew, often without any one person overseeing everything. The result was siloed data that was often under-protected. Backing up or recovering data across the entire company was a massive undertaking, putting them at significant risk of data loss and putting the company's FDA compliance status at risk.

"We spent 15 hours a week just dealing with backup problems," said Jennifer Hopkins, Head of Information Technology at Syros.

Moreover, legacy storage systems were slowing down the performance of their computational biology work. "Computational biology is the base function of how Syros science operates, it's our stronghold," said Hopkins. As they searched for a new solution, maintaining a competitive edge was critical. Hopkins and team needed an enterprise-class solution that could meet their computational biology requirements of speed, versioning, and it had to be easy to use.

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Jennifer Hopkins  
Head of Information Technology at Syros



### COMPANY

Syros Pharmaceuticals

### LOCATION

Cambridge, MA

### INDUSTRY

Life Sciences

### EMPLOYEES

100

### GOALS

Enterprise-wide ability to backup and recover file data, improve computational biology pipeline performance

### SPECS

**Data Types** - Genomics and Computational Chemistry

**File Count** - 39 Million

### WEBSITE

syros.com

### IGNEOUS BENEFITS

- Launched an Unstructured Data Management (UDM) strategy focused on automating and scaling backup and recovery for millions of computational biology data files
- Saving 15 hours a week by eliminating babysitting of legacy backups
- 40x faster time to complete file data jobs
- Restored 45 days of work in only 23 seconds
- SaaS delivery reduces costs, allowing the company to focus on value-added projects, not operational and systems management 'fire drills'

### PRODUCTS USED

- Igneous DataProtect for backup and archive

## The Solution: Protecting More Data at Line Speed with Igneous

Syros Pharmaceuticals chose Igneous for its ability to accurately organize, backup and quickly recover all their unstructured data. Simply put, Igneous solved the problem that no one else could.

Jennifer says that, thanks to Igneous, they can now run backups for millions or even billions of files without babysitting, without impacting their NAS performance, and without the OPEX and CAPEX of traditional backup systems. "There was no question that Igneous was the most cost-effective option for us. We don't spend 15 hours a week babysitting backups anymore," said Hopkins.

In addition, Syros now has confidence that the growth of their datasets won't break their data protection system. "We won't outgrow this within the next five years. In the end, the budgeting decision for data protection was a no-brainer," said Hopkins.

## The Result: Fast and indexed backups across all NAS empower users to recover data in seconds

Modern data protection with UDM means Syros IT can now provide data recovery by version "ridiculously fast". In one recent example, an entire directory consisting of 45 days' worth of computational biology work was accidentally deleted. In the past, this would have been a catastrophic event, with no way to replace or recreate the lost work. With Igneous, Syros was able to recover the lost data, by themselves, in only 29 seconds! Previously this would have taken weeks to complete, and that's only if they could find the directory.

By combining Igneous with Pure FlashBlade, Syros now has the enterprise-class infrastructure they need for high-performance computing. "The pairing of Igneous with Pure Flashblade is a well designed solution that truly meets the specific needs of the unique data types we generate in life sciences." said Hopkins.

Jenn's advice to other organizations starting out with UDM? "You need to find a partner who listens and understands the unique challenges of unstructured data. Igneous gives me peace of mind. I can actually sleep at night now."



### Why Igneous

- Fast file movement: up to 100TB per day
- Simple solution delivered, managed, and consumed as-a-Service
- Support for any NAS system, file protocol and cloud service
- API-enabled for tight integration and automation
- Time to Value in days vs weeks

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**Jennifer Hopkins**  
Head of Information Technology at Syros

## Contact Igneous

1-844-IGNEOUS / 206-504-3685 / [info@igneous.io](mailto:info@igneous.io)