Leverage the Power of Metadata

Manage Any Data, on Any Storage, Anywhere

CAPABILITY BRIEF

Leverage the Power of Metadata for Global Data Management

StrongLink is a comprehensive data and storage resource management software platform that enables you to gain complete control over all your data on any storage type. This is a new and unique approach to managing your entire data environment that automates data classification and life-cycle management for any data, on any storage, anywhere.

Metadata acts like a roadmap to give you the insights you need to control all of your data and storage resources.

Being able to manage data and storage resources across different storage types and vendors is only possible because StrongLink takes a data-centric approach, coalescing multiple metadata types into an aggregated management framework on existing storage. This enables StrongLink to provide an 'intelligent roadmap' for data and storage management without needing to alter the underlying infrastructure.

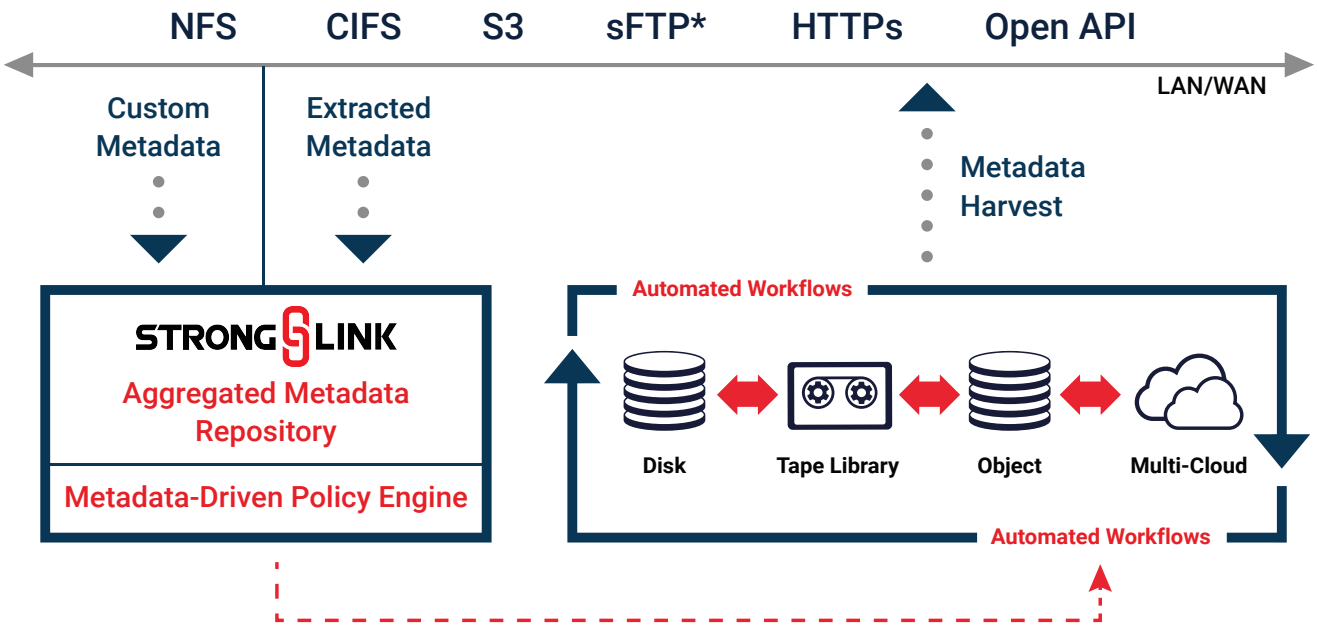

Figure 1. *StrongLink harvests multiple types of file and system metadata from any storage type or file system, which can be used for search, policy-based data migrations, and much more, with a global view across all storage silos.*

StrongLink leverages and aggregates multiple types of metadata to automate and combine resource management, storage service management, and data management into a single, unified platform. This enables "storage aware" intelligence to data management. It means that both users and system administrators can actively manage all their data, plus the underlying storage infrastructure, to ensure it is optimized for the customer's business needs.

Any metadata fragment from multiple information sources can be part of a query, or used to trigger data life-cycle management policies.

What Is So Special About Metadata?

Metadata is literally data about the data. Think of it as a roadmap that gives you a bird's eye view of everything about your data, without needing to access it directly.

As an example: traditional storage-centric solutions such as NAS systems focus on the storage features within their own ecosystem, and have minimal to no awareness to the substance of the data. StrongLink's data-centric approach is fully aware of the data and metadata, and can leverage that intelligence to pro-actively orchestrate storage optimization and data protection to match your business processes and workflows.

Storage-centric solutions simply do not have the intelligence about the data they store nor were they designed to work across different storage types, file systems or platforms. StrongLink's data-centric approach begins with metadata and data classification, first harvesting all available metadata from the file system, from rich metadata in file headers, as well as enabling users to add their own custom metadata tags.

As all of these metadata types are coalesced within StrongLink, the system becomes data aware and can now globally orchestrate both data and storage management without impacting user workflows or the underlying infrastructure.

So rather than trying to physically normalize all the data at the infrastructure level, StrongLink virtualizes the entire storage environment, using metadata to simplify global management across all storage types and silos. With StrongLink in place, all the available data from the many different data types and storage locations is made globally searchable and actionable via its metadata. And as policies change over time, StrongLink ensures that the data life-cycle policies are kept current.

User-Defined Metadata

In addition to file-system metadata and other rich metadata that can be harvested from file headers, StrongLink also enables users to add custom metadata tags to files. When combined with the other metadata elements within a file, there is no limit to the ways users can use such tags to automate complex workflows, or to simplify management of disparate files on different systems according to a project tag, a use case, or any variable required. Any metadata fragment can be part of a query, or used to trigger a policy or action.

Metadata-Driven Storage Resource Management

StrongLink's powerful metadata engine can apply to storage resources as well as the data they house. Data from multiple sources can be presented to users and applications as virtual file systems, via any standard file or object protocol, regardless of the protocols that are supported by the underlying physical storage system.

The power of metadata means StrongLink virtualizes data access, eliminating the problems of storage silos, and automating complex jobs like data migrations so there is little or no impact to users. Users and applications can access any data via virtual namespaces using the same protocols they use today, and according to their permissions (existing authentication systems, ACLs, etc.) or use cases. This provides a global view beyond an individual silo and ensures no disruption to existing workflows even when storage infrastructures change.

Metadata Is the Key to Future-Proofing Your Data

Over time, the system becomes smarter as metadata evolves and is used by StrongLink's policy engines to enable pro-active planning, automate retention policies, and ensure data protection. That approach gives you the inputs needed to define and implement data life-cycle management rules for curation, migration, and accessibility across all platforms.

This data-centric approach enables users to focus on their business drivers, and dramatically simplify management of their storage and their data.