



Insight-led IT services

Safeguard your backups from ransomware and other cyber attacks with immutable backups.

When your critical data is protected by immutable backup, it means the backup is separated from your main environment both physically and credentials-wise, preventing destruction or manipulation of data by malicious actors. In the case of malware, ransomware or cryptographic attacks, it means you can recover and reinstate your data company wide.

The wake-up moment for immutability

Deployed on premise or in a cloud environment, immutable backups have been available for some years. But it's only in the last 12 to 18 months that IT decision makers have realised their importance in an overall security strategy.

Today these backups are one of our most in-demand services. They're an integral part of a companies' everyday backup routine, and part of our holistic LIMA security service.

81.4%

Organisations in the UK experienced at least one cyber attack in 2021/22

£1 million

Approx average cost of ransomware attacks in the UK, annually

13%

UK companies end up paying the ransom

53%

UK cyber breaches malicious in nature



Immutable in the cloud or on premise

Many businesses build immutability backups onto the existing cloud services or technical solutions they already have with LIMA, such as our Backup as a Service (BaaS) offering. Around 80% of our customers currently take their backups through a cloud service, which in turn helps build their cloud capability. They use our cloud platforms, Amazon Web Services or similar, to deliver the service.

Immutable backups are also now available as a feature for on-premise customers who take backup solutions from LIMA. In that instance, we build the backup solution on-site using their software and hardware. For those organisations with large data volumes, it may be more cost effective to take the on-premise option, as extra charges are sometimes incurred for cloud solutions if large data storage capacity is required.

On premise is sometimes also preferred where an organisation is not yet ready to embrace cloud because of their particular financial operating model or other operational issues.

“At Trafford College Group we have a very small in-house team on the infrastructure side of things, and having five campuses is quite a big ask for that team. Having external support from LIMA, with a team that can look at problems like ransomware risk and solve them for us, is really essential. We have that trust in LIMA to be able to put the right solution in place.”

David Fitton, Director of IT and Digital Services at Trafford College Group

Essential features of LIMA immutable backups

1. One-time only access

- Single-use credentials and access mechanisms mean systems and people can't access the environment without a newly generated access password
- No service integration that would allow primary systems to talk to the backup environment
- Doesn't use any repeat passwords or pre-existing accounts to access the environment

2. Non-Windows underlying file structures

- Uses UNIX file systems delivered through the Veeam technical solution, designed around proprietary file systems and technologies
- No Windows standard access control lists or file permissions. (Note that Windows operating systems, file structures, file systems, access control lists and passwords are now a prime target of ransomware and malware attacks)

3. Air gapped, always

- Backups are segregated from the main environment, in a process known as air gapping
- This happens on two levels: the first, a physical segregation through geography, and the second, a security segregation from a credentials point of view, through network services
- Backup is never part of any domain or domain access service

“Having immutable backup from LIMA definitely gives us peace of mind; the air gapping is a huge comfort. Without it, the college's backups would all be online. In a ransomware attack, those backups could be targeted as well and we could lose all our data.”

David Fitton, Director of IT and Digital Services at Trafford College Group

Significant benefits of LIMA immutable backups

- A clean copy of your critical data is always available
- Guaranteed recovery in the event of a ransomware attack – you're never put in a position where the only way you can recover your data is by paying a ransom
- Prevention of data destruction or manipulation by malicious actors or accidental deletion
- Easy management with immutability delivered through extensions of existing backup architecture and technology, yet still guaranteeing air gapping
- Compliance with data regulations; ensures you meet cyber insurance requirements
- Reduction in costs with no investment in additional software or licencing required: you only pay for extra storage capacity
- Supported by LINUX systems through our partner Veeam, a market leader in backup solutions, particularly for virtualised work
- Implementation in as little as two days for customers already using Veeam technology, with little input required from the customer
- Support comes as part of the BaaS option


With an immutable backup solution from LIMA, organisations can lean on our considerable expertise and experience in backup solutions, and our reputation as a security-focused managed services provider. LIMA's cloud-based Backup as a Service is a robust, secure, scalable solution for protecting business information from loss associated with user-error, hacking or any other kind of technological incident.

Immutable backups are also a companion piece to LIMA's managed vulnerability and assessment service, which helps businesses actively locate, identify and assess IT environment security risks, preventing vulnerabilities that could eventually transition into malware attacks.

Need more information on outsourced IT support functions?

Get in touch with one of our experts and find out the best way to make immutable backups a core component of your backup or disaster recovery plan, and of your overall cyber strategy.

We deliver value through insight, expertise and technology as the strategic IT partner for the most ambitious organisations.

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