



## Dolphin Best Practice Solution: SAP BI/BW Data Archiving Strategies Optimizing the database to drive business intelligence

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### *The Challenge*

**Your entire business is networked.** Real-time and historical data on business performance is available from across the enterprise. You use SAP BW or BI to try and make sense of it all – to gain insight and information you need to make informed business decisions.

Taking advantage of SAP BI/BW tools generates exponential increases in database volume – which in turn take a toll on system performance. IT must consider the cost of continuous data storage expansion to contain all that information – with associated cost of maintenance and administration.

Much as with SAP ERP databases, **the solution is a data archiving strategy** that maximizes storage and network resources while ensuring business information access.

But using SAP functionality to archive from BI/BW data presents its own challenges. The SAP ADK enables data archiving from the BI system. During this archiving process, data is removed from the BI database and stored in archive files in the file system. **Standard BI/BW functionality, however, does not permit direct reporting against archived data, so it needs to be reloaded into the BI/BW database to enable reporting.**

**Business users are unable to report against historical data during the process – a costly loss of access.** Data reload requires labor resources and database space to handle the additional volume. Reloaded data must be removed again from the database after historical data reporting. Lack of direct access to archived data and a cumbersome retrieval process often lead to long online residence periods.

### *The Dolphin Solution*

**The Dolphin best-practices solution delivers transparent, simultaneous access to online and archived data.** Dolphin implements the PBS solutions for BW or BI to deliver this simultaneous access via standard SAP BI/BW queries, without reloading the data. This allows users to archive sooner, effectively reducing BI/BW system growth rate, and decreasing operating costs.

PBS add ons are software solutions implemented entirely with standard SAP tools that enhance data archiving, extraction, nearline and compliant storage without the need for additional hardware.

### *The Dolphin Process*

Standard SAP BI/BW functionality does not allow direct reporting against archived data, requiring a reload into the BI/BW database.

Dolphin has many years of experience implementing PBS software to optimize SAP BI/BW data.

A typical engagement includes:

- Analysis of BI data retrieval requirements, database growth, and distribution.
- Custom data archiving strategy.
- Installation and testing.
- Demonstration and evaluation with customer's system and data.
- Existing archive file integration
- Modification of InfoProvider and Query infrastructure to support CBW
- Establishment of efficient data management procedures.

To support archive data access, the PBS software builds a small index for each archive file in the file system of the SAP instance. PBS also includes tools to support the construction and removal of PBS index data for SAP archive files. All tools are implemented completely within the SAP system.

For data retrieval in SAP BI/BW, PBS uses virtual InfoCubes with services extending standard BI/BW queries to archived data via the index. This virtually eliminates the need for any user knowledge about where information resides (online or archived). Business users can use existing queries to report against online and archived data. Since they are using the standard SAP BI/BW user interface, no additional end user training is necessary.

### ***The Dolphin Advantage***

**The Dolphin solution offers unique user benefits, including:**

- No changes are made to the original SAP data.
- Almost all PBS archive data is stored outside the SAP BI/BW database in the file system, guaranteeing a leaner BI/BW database. Relieving the database load improves performance for dialog and report access; reduces required disk space; and shortens database back-up times.
- Keeping index data on magnetic disks allows very fast data access, even if numerous users are accessing the system simultaneously.
- All archive data is stored in a compressed format.
- Archived data is accessed through standard SAP BI/BW queries.

**Dolphin has successfully implemented data and document archiving across all SAP modules and multiple industries, and our team has extensive archiving experience with SAP BW and BI releases.** With PBS add ons, Dolphin provides complete services, including SAP data analysis, PBS archive test installation, implementation and development of additional retrieval functionality, and ongoing support.

### ***About Dolphin***

Dolphin Corporation leverages their customers' SAP investments to take the time and cost out of their essential business operations. An experienced, professional team focused solely on optimizing SAP solutions, Dolphin is an acknowledged expert in data and document archiving, DART, SAP NetWeaver BI and BW archiving and business processes such as accounts payable, accounts receivable and order management in the SAP environment.

Founded in 1995, with offices in San Jose, Calif. and Philadelphia, Penn., Dolphin solutions are implemented across North America and around the world.

Visit us online at [www.dolphin-corp.com](http://www.dolphin-corp.com) to learn more!

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### **Leveraging your SAP Investment**

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### **Dolphin Integrates Nearline Storage with PBS**

Standard PBS tools work within the SAP solution to streamline data and document retrieval and access. PBS tools for SAP BI/BW databases include:

- **BW Database Analyzer**, providing capacity analysis of InfoProviders and PSA tables for BW 3.x and BI 7.0.
- **CBW NLS ADK**, provides a nearline data archiving solution for SAP NetWeaver 2004s for PSA, InfoCube, and ODS data.
- **CBW NLS IQ**, allows nearline data archiving with the Sybase IQ Analysis Server.
- **PBS Archive Add On CBW**, provides nearline storage integration for SAP BW 3.x.