



## Lowering the Cost of Legacy Data Access, Archiving and Compliance

### System Consolidation and Legacy Archiving for SAP® Customers: A Dolphin Best Practice Solution

#### *The Challenge*

**Companies implement SAP planning to consolidate or decommission their legacy systems.** But often a year or more goes by...and they are still there. Keeping legacy systems operational just to maintain historical information is expensive – they are difficult to maintain, take up valuable space, and require specialized expertise. Moreover, the company runs the risk that the system won't be supported as long as you're required to retain the data. **But business and legal compliance requirements make it necessary to ensure efficient access to this information for audit and fiduciary purposes.**

Legacy consolidation has to be managed and addressed in the context of an **enterprise information lifecycle management (ILM) strategy**. Methods for doing this vary from enterprise to enterprise – or even within an organization.

One approach is to load the data into the new SAP database, but this is complex and time-consuming, and may lead to errors, lost productivity and database performance issues related to size.

Others choose to load legacy data onto an independent nearline database and then optionally archive using database-specific nearline archiving tools. However, this database migration does not include business logic – making queries too complicated for most business users.

Still another tactic is to bring all the legacy data into the SAP business warehouse. The result is an exponential expansion in the size of the database – and the performance issues that go along with it.

#### *The Dolphin Solution*

System consolidation *should* lower the cost of IT while improving legacy data access and legal compliance. The challenge is choosing the right strategy.

**Successful consolidations hinge upon the ability to preserve legacy data in its original application format.** This retains the business logic with a single point of access in the source SAP system while allowing for the opportunity to decommission the legacy system. The ease of use and fast access to information fosters user acceptance. Depending on the environment, Dolphin's document navigator, ArchiveLink, Content Management Systems and third-party applications such as PBS, can provide the necessary infrastructure for legacy system retirement.

**Dolphin uses a comprehensive approach to legacy consolidation and retirement** that focuses on retention for legal, audit, regulatory, and other purposes. How you choose to consolidate is driven by these requirements, cost, and the existing IT environment. Dolphin's approach focuses on how each client can address the four critical aspects of consolidation:

#### **Customer ROI**

Dolphin customers have seen significant cost savings. A few examples:

- **By decommissioning more than 100 systems, a telecom manufacturer is saving \$2 million annually in maintenance**
- **A leading food catering company decommissioned 1 mainframe accounts payable system and is saving \$5,000/day in hosting and support costs = \$1,825,000**
- **A manufacturer decommissioned just two systems, taking \$250,000 out of annual costs.**
- **A leading beverage company has decommissioned more than 50 applications to date - on the way to more than 200.**

All of these companies can search for and retrieve their historical information when needed – quickly and without IT involvement.

- **Extract** – how to get data from the legacy system, parse relevant meta data and format output.
- **Archive** – how to ensure adequate performance, determine the best storage technology and manage complexity with flexibility.
- **Retrieve** – how to provide efficient user access, grant flexible auditor access, and perform data extracts as needed.
- **Delete** – how to model retention periods, define a legal hold, and delete at the end of the live cycle.

### Benefits of Dolphin's Approach

- **Single point of access to all information**
- **Transparent access to both SAP and Legacy data – via the SAP user interface**
- **Fewer systems and applications to support/maintain**
- **Efficient retrieval and distribution of information**
- **Compliance and audit support**
- **Mitigates risk**

For example, Dolphin uses COLD technology to facilitate non-SAP legacy system consolidation. COLD (Computer Output on Laser Disk) technology coupled with SAP ArchiveLink, and Dolphin's document navigator provide a powerful user interface enabling cost-efficient external storage for data retention, indexing, and retrieval of non-SAP documents directly from SAP, with minimal footprint within SAP database. This **eliminates the expense of** supporting a separate application.

**The results are efficient and easy user access to legacy data, optimal database performance, the ability to meet compliance requirements, and maximize storage resources – all as part of a broader ILM strategy.** Users can access data from multiple legacy systems through the SAP user interface. Moreover, IT now has a low-maintenance system which doesn't adversely impact the SAP database.

### *The Dolphin Advantage*

Dolphin's sole focus is helping customers leverage their SAP investment by taking the time and cost out of essential business operations. Dolphin helps customers extract audit, legal and other relevant legacy SAP data to consolidate the SAP system while providing

access to that data within or outside of the source SAP system.

Dolphin has developed unique SAP-centric tools to help their customers implement legacy archiving and retrieval, promote retention requirements and support destruction needs for both structured and unstructured archived data. A **legacy archiving framework** enables legacy data archiving and retrieval as well as reduces the time it takes for data discovery. It also establishes an audit trail and supports time and event disposition, records disposition workflow, and legal hold order management with search capabilities.

### **About Dolphin**

Dolphin Corporation makes crucial business operations like data management, accounts payable, accounts receivable and order management run better and smarter for organizations using SAP solutions. Founded in 1995, Dolphin produces the right solution for each customer, faster, through its unmatched experience in SAP solutions, and its proven best practices, tools and SAP add-on applications. Dolphin solutions improve business and IT performance, lower total cost of ownership and deliver high return on investment.

With offices in Philadelphia, PA and San Jose, CA, 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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