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Ensure High Compliance and High Performance

The Business Case for ILM

Information lifecycle management (ILM) is the practice of strategically managing the data within your organization – including determining where it is stored, how quickly it can be accessed, how it is tracked, and how long it must be retained. With a well-planned ILM initiative, companies can ensure that their SAP solutions live up to their promise of high compliance and high performance; ILM helps companies manage data retention and access requirements to protect their organization from risk.

The foundation of an ILM initiative is a solid data archiving strategy, which enables companies to improve performance and manage their costs. Dolphin can help customers create this strategy based on their SAP R/3 or SAP ERP systems. Dolphin also helps customers assess DART and provides solutions for archiving business intelligence (BI) data, consolidating systems, and decommissioning legacy systems.

Solve the Compliance Conundrum

Compliance requirements often drive companies to implement ILM initiatives, and for good reason. After all, compliance with laws and regulations – from Sarbanes-Oxley and SEC reporting, to HIPAA requirements and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act – can impact legal disputes and regulatory approvals, as well as the very survival of the business.

Of course, not all information needs to be retained forever. Infinite data retention actually increases liability risks, since keeping data longer than required exposes the organization to potential data privacy breaches and legal claims. The challenge for IT teams is to retain the data they need and keep it accessible, and to destroy the data they no longer need – all while managing costs.

To do this, companies need a data archiving strategy that defines policies and integrates records retention requirements into short-term and long-term resource planning. This plan ensures that the right procedures – from records creation to archive retention and end-of-life destruction of that data – are in place, and that they are responsible, efficient, and cost effective.

Achieve Faster System Performance

SAP system users want every record and report available at the speed of thought. But the more records that are made available online, the larger the database – and this means slower response times. That's why an effective data archiving strategy should free up the online database for the most active records.

At Dolphin, we have found that 75% to 80% of the records in SAP databases are inactive – the data needs no further modification. A smart data archiving strategy moves these records and documents off of the production database and onto an accessible offline archive to improve runtime and help meet service level agreements for backup and recovery. An added benefit lies in the fact that data archiving lowers the total cost of ownership for your data storage systems.

Information lifecycle management enhances how customers manage, identify, and categorize information for data archiving, retention management, and data warehousing. In addition, the solution's new capabilities will be particularly useful for implementing more robust retention management policies and integrating third-party content management systems (CMS) through SAP ArchiveLink.

Get Started Now

Dolphin's phased approach to setting up your data archiving strategy starts with collaboration between the IT team that manages data and the business people who use it. After analyzing retention times and retrieval needs, Dolphin consultants then prepare a comprehensive blueprint that serves as your archiving strategy roadmap.

Upfront analysis and planning for data archiving, especially when coupled with a more holistic ILM strategy, will pay off in both the short term and the long term through faster system performance and improved regulatory compliance – all with a lower total cost of ownership.

For more information about Dolphin's data archiving approach, please visit www.dolphin-corp.com. ■

The foundation of every ILM initiative is a data archiving strategy. Dolphin can help you create such a strategy, enabling you to improve performance and better manage your costs.
