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## Lowered Costs or Improved Performance?

Achieve Both by Optimizing SAP NetWeaver BW with Nearline Storage and Enhanced Analytics

Every company wants to make better business decisions. That's why enterprises are implementing business intelligence (BI) applications like SAP NetWeaver Business Warehouse (SAP NetWeaver BW) and using them to consolidate vast quantities of information, facilitate reporting and analytics, and enable smarter decision making on the business side. But what about IT?

IT leaders have to make important decisions, too — decisions about how to best manage the data within the BI environment, for instance. Smart IT decision making relies on upfront planning and innovative storage architectures to help manage data storage and archiving for optimal performance and lower costs.

### End the Cost-or-Performance Dilemma

Does high performance necessarily mean high cost? Does reducing costs require a sacrifice in performance? On one hand, demand for fast access to business analytics requires huge data volumes to be available for on-demand queries. On the other hand, replication and aggregation during the transformation and loading process creates even more data in the BW system. Keeping more data online increases costs and slows database performance. The cost-or-performance dilemma for SAP NetWeaver BW users seems stark, but it doesn't have to be.

Dolphin implements the right balance of performance and cost for its customers, using a "data aging" strategy tailored for the SAP NetWeaver BW environment. The strategy involves moving a subset of data to nearline storage, which reduces the load on the online system and thus maintains overall performance. With compression ratios typically 15:1 or higher, maintaining information in the nearline system significantly lowers total costs.

### Nearline Storage and Column-Based Analytics

A traditional information lifecycle management strategy in an ERP environment separates static data from active transactions in the online production database and archives it on a less expensive, slower-access storage tier. In BW applications, on the other hand, users still

query a large volume of static data and need fast access to information over a longer period of time. Incorporating column-based storage technology for nearline data that is still used in queries delivers both cost and performance advantages needed for optimized SAP NetWeaver BW operations.

The solution requires no archive files, indexes, or aggregates and enables quick ad hoc query response times. Dolphin delivers column-based analytics and nearline storage as part of an SAP-certified nearline storage solution, PBS CBW Nearline Storage with optimized analytics. (Dolphin is a North American reseller and integrator of PBS software for SAP solutions.) Coupled with Dolphin's proven approach to SAP archiving, PBS CBW Nearline Storage:

- Allows archiving from SAP NetWeaver BW to nearline storage
- Provides business users with transparent data access and improved performance
- Requires no IT resources or user training, since users can access the nearline data the same way they access online data

With PBS CBW Nearline Storage's advanced column-based database optimized for business analytics, customers can manage rising data volumes and meet the demand for higher speed. Compression of read-only data is typically 90% or more in the nearline system.

### A Win-Win Situation

When companies combine column-based database archiving with nearline storage, the results include dramatically faster search and query performance — and lower operating costs. Moving data into the nearline archive can instantly reduce online database strain and ease long-term database growth. Business users can perform queries using nearline, archived data at near-online speeds.

In other words, the cost-or-performance battle is over; everybody wins. And that is a smart IT decision. To learn more, visit [www.dolphin-corp.com](http://www.dolphin-corp.com). ■

See Dolphin's white paper "SAP NetWeaver BW Archiving with Nearline Storage and Optimized Analytics" at <http://pages.dolphin-corp.com/BWArchivingWP.html>.