Dolphin

A member of the Hanse Orga Group

LEGACY MIGRATION AND DECOMMISSIONING FOR SAP® CUSTOMERS

THE CHALLENGE

Companies implement SAP® with plans to consolidate or decommission their legacy systems. But often years go by and those systems still exist. Keeping legacy systems operational to maintain historical information is expensive – they are difficult to maintain, take up valuable space and require specialized expertise. Moreover, a company runs the risk that the system won't be supported for the required data retention period. Yet, business and legal compliance requirements make it necessary to ensure efficient access to this information for audit and fiduciary purposes.

One approach is to load the legacy data into the live SAP database, but this is often complex, time-consuming, error-prone, expensive and may lead to lost productivity and database performance issues.

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

Still another tactic is to bring all the legacy data into the SAP Business Warehouse (BW). While a limited use of SAP BW for key analytical needs from legacy data is a good strategy, loading the contents from an entire legacy system would result in an exponential expansion in the size of the database and the performance issues that go along with it. Some of the concerns listed above related to a lack of business logic can also apply to this scenario as well.

THE DOLPHIN SOLUTION

Legacy migration *should* lower the cost of IT while improving legacy data access and legal compliance. The challenge is choosing the right strategy without replacing the old legacy systems with new systems and larger IT footprint.

The key to Dolphin's SAP centric legacy strategy is to leverage the same archiving platform that is used by the current SAP system. This approach allows decommissioning of legacy systems without setting up new systems. If you don't already have an on-premise archiving platform, Dolphin includes that as part of the solution. This also gives you multiple storage options including the ability to tap in to public or private cloud storage as a service as a repository for the massive historic documents and data that do not get accessed frequently. Again, no new systems. The result is drastically lower total costs of ownership (TCO) compared to other legacy decommissioning approaches.

Business usually buys in to this approach because the legacy data is presented in its original application format. The original business documents and data are accessible from a single point of access in the current SAP system. There is an optional non-SAP user-interface for non-SAP users. The ease of use and fast access to information foster user acceptance. Depending on the environment, Dolphin's Legacy Archiving Framework in conjunction with SAP ArchiveLink, ILM, BW and third-party applications to handle a variety of audit extraction requirements (see sidebar, page 2) can provide the necessary infrastructure for legacy system retirement. The fundamental premise is to avoid undue complexity and leverage what you already own.

BENEFITS

- **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
- Reduces cost

AUDIT EXTRACTION COCKPIT

When migrating data from SAP legacy systems, the question arises – How will we respond to audits and other inquiries? The challenge is defining which data needs to be kept. Worldwide, country regulations require nearly all data to be retained including transactional and configuration data. The Archive Extraction Cockpit (AEC) allows for complete extraction of SAP data and removes the risk of losing data left behind when shutting down the legacy SAP system.

AEC is a simple, secure, flexible, Sarbanes-Oxley Act compliant method to extract both online and archived data from your SAP system.

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Compliance. Dolphin's comprehensive approach to legacy migration and retirement focuses on retention for legal, audit, regulatory and other mandates. How you choose to migrate your outmoded systems 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 migration:

- **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.

The results are efficient and easy user access to legacy data, optimal database performance and 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 leads the way in SAP business performance improvement and is the one partner that manages both data and processes. From data and information lifecycle management to end-to-end solutions for SAP procure-to-pay and order-to-cash processes, Dolphin delivers a competitive advantage that drives cost savings, optimizes cash flows and fosters a lower total cost of ownership. Leveraging SAP technology, Dolphin's data lifecycle and business process management solutions, and SAP-certified add-on applications, have built-in flexibility and are designed to be tailored to each customers' specific business processes and IT environments.

The company was founded in 1995 and has offices in San Jose, CA, Philadelphia, PA and Toronto, Canada. Dolphin's smart, adaptable and proven solutions are implemented by hundreds of companies across North America and around the world. Among Dolphin customers are more than one-third of Fortune 100™ companies running SAP systems. **To learn more, email us at contact@dolphin-corp.com or visit www.dolphin-corp.com.**