

ILM Software – In Depth

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The result of increased data and demand for storage all too often leads to wasted storage space, increased backup times and application downtimes. 51% of open system data is unnecessary, duplicate or non-business related. 47% of open systems capacity is available, but in the wrong place. 55% of unplanned server outages occur from out-of-control disk space consumption.

What is ILM

Information Lifecycle Management is comprised of the policies, processes, practices, and tools used to align the business value of information with the most appropriate and cost effective IT infrastructure from the time information is conceived through its final disposition. Information is aligned with business processes through management policies and service levels (SLA's) associated with applications, metadata, information, and data.

ILM is not only a technology; it's a combination of processes and technologies that determine how data flows through an environment. By doing so, it helps end users manage data from the moment it is created to the time it is no longer needed. The most efficient ILM strategy for a business manages information according to its value and maintaining business information storage at the lowest possible cost, while maintaining appropriate levels of availability. ILM uses a number of business methodologies including: Assessment, Socialization, Classification, Compliancy, Automation, and Review.

ILM is an ever-growing and evolving process. In order to realize the benefits of the ILM process, IT must continuously review the usage patterns of its storage resources and ensure adherence to policies and procedures. By taking advantage of the new Storage Resource Management (SRM) tools, monitoring the process becomes easy.

How can it help?

ILM solves key problems such as: ineffective storage utilization, the costs of managing storage, the ability to manage storage growth surrounding day to day operations, data replication and disaster recovery/business continuance and backup. Unless IT understands the real value of data within the environment, it remains difficult to determine how to best assign storage resources for its placement.

Assessment, Socialization, Classification, Automation and Review

By using SRM tools designed to analyze and manage current storage resources and recover wasted assets, companies can improve utilization, provide availability and enable automation. This process saves time (backup), disk space (secondary storage) and tape space. Enabling policy-driven data placement, ensuring that only the highest-value data uses primary resources; this reduces waste and allows IT to develop budgets based on the importance of the data to business requirements.

Compliancy, Automation and Review

Compliance isn't just an issue for the financial services industry anymore. Today, more industries and organizations are affected by regulatory compliance. There are more than 16,000 federal regulations in the U.S. that require data retention periods of up to 30 years or more. Think of the cost of complying. And then think of the cost of not complying. Most of the focus is on e-mail.

Email compliance means something different to every organization. It can include corporate policy compliance to protect intellectual property, prevent harassment and protect the corporate brand; compliance to protect employee productivity and networks from viruses and spam; and email regulatory compliance to adhere to regulations such as HIPAA, Sarbanes-Oxley, PCI, CA-SB1386, SEC, and Gramm-Leach-Bliley. Real-time, automated policy enforcement tools help to stop email violations before they occur. Email encryption, together with content monitoring and control technology can provide complete email compliance protection.

An excellent tool to use for email compliancy is Message Manager. Message Manager offers the industry's leading solution of ensuring that all inbound, outbound, and internal email, in multiple languages are captured and managed to support

corporate and regulatory retention requirements. Users of Message Manager can utilize powerful eDiscovery workflow capabilities to reduce the costs associated with recovering, searching, preparing and producing electronic data in response to legal requests. Message Manager can archive to WORM media, purge data when expired, archive with multiple retention periods per group and apply “Legal Hold” to prevent messages under litigation from being purged.

In Conclusion

An effective ILM implementation can significantly streamline costs and management efficiencies. IT organizations can actually use ILM processes to more effectively implement solutions, ensuring that critical data is given top-priority storage resources and is always available.

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