

# IBM InfoSphere Optim Archive

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## Highlights

- Reduce hardware, storage and maintenance costs by archiving historical data
  - Improve performance by controlling database and data warehouse growth
  - Maintain access to applications and data stores that have been consolidated
  - Support data retention regulations according to business policies
  - Respond to requests with universal access to archived information
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You depend on business-critical applications to meet the challenges of daily operations—from payroll processing and financial reporting to customer service and support. Those applications manage essential information for transaction processing and timely decision making. But exponential data growth can impair the timely completion of critical business activities, keeping your organization from meeting its service-level agreements (SLAs). Additionally, you're pressured to reduce costs and comply with increased regulatory burdens. What are your alternatives?

The IBM InfoSphere Optim Archive solution is a single, scalable data growth management solution offering benefits across the enterprise. Now you can align continuous control of your application data with your business objectives to optimize application and data warehouse performance, consolidate or decommission applications, reduce risk and control costs. From small to large organizations, from single applications to global business centers, InfoSphere Optim enables you to streamline data lifecycle management activities using a consistent, proven strategy.

## Apply effective database archiving capabilities to achieve business results

As a recognized best practice, database archiving segregates inactive application data from current activity and safely moves it to a secure archive. Streamlined databases and data warehouses reclaim capacity and help improve application performance and availability. With InfoSphere Optim, you can establish distinct service levels for each class or temperature of data, where current data is hot, reporting data is warm, and historical data is cold. As a result, you can consistently achieve application and data warehouse performance targets.

Policy-driven archive processes allow you to specify the business rules for archiving. Rules are commonly based on functional or legal requirements such as age, date, transaction status, business unit or company. For example, you might archive closed orders that are at least two years old. InfoSphere Optim identifies transactions that meet those criteria and moves them into an accessible archive.

InfoSphere Optim manages application data at the business-object level. A business object represents a conceptual unit of information such as customers, orders or invoices. From a technical perspective, business objects are comprised of a group of related columns and tables from one or more application databases along with their associated metadata. By managing data at the business-object level, InfoSphere Optim preserves both the relational integrity of the data and its original business context. Each archived record represents a historical reference snapshot of business activity, regardless of its originating application (see Figure 1).

## Access the data you need, when and how you need it

You need access to your historical business data to make decisions, run reports, respond to customer inquiries, and audit or make eDiscovery requests. InfoSphere Optim allows you to choose the most effective access method based on business purpose, user convenience and cost. If necessary, archived data can be selectively restored to the production environment; for example, archived HR data for a past employee can be restored if that employee returns. With InfoSphere Optim, you can implement tiered storage strategies to manage application data based on its evolving business value. Current transactions remain in the high-performance

online transaction processing (OLTP) environment. Reporting data in history tables can be kept in mid-tier storage, so you control costs while still meeting service requirements.

To further reduce costs, you can store historical or reference data offline to tape or other long-term storage devices. Maintaining reference data in an immutable format on a secure write-once, read-many (WORM) device enables you to protect archived business objects for regulatory compliance. If an auditor requires access to data for compliance or other purposes, you will be prepared with complete snapshots of your transactions at each point in time. Plus, you can keep archived business transactions accessible until legal retention periods expire and archives can be deleted.

Accessing and reporting on historical information takes less time and effort with the many available methods to access InfoSphere Optim archive data. For example, native application-based access offers a consolidated view of current and historical information through the existing application interface. In cases where the originating application has been retired or is no longer available, InfoSphere Optim offers application-independent access to archived transactions. Users can search archive data easily through the web-based capabilities included with InfoSphere Optim Archive, powered by InfoSphere Data Explorer. Archived data can also be moved into a Hadoop environment to be leveraged by big data strategies. Other application-independent ways to access archived data involve industry-standard methods such as ODBC/JDBC, XML or SQL, and reporting tools such as IBM Cognos Business Intelligence, SAP BusinessObjects, Crystal Reports, Oracle Discoverer or even Microsoft Excel (see Figure 2).

## **Support retention compliance, governance and recovery initiatives**

Protecting your company from liability is critical. Keeping too much or too little data can result in a liability. InfoSphere Optim Archive data growth management capabilities enable you to apply business policies to govern data retention, access and disposal. You can automate data retention to support compliance initiatives and respond quickly and accurately to audit and discovery requests. Organizations leveraging InfoSphere Business Glossary to define and document retention rules for business content can easily integrate these rules into InfoSphere Optim Archive. Utilizing InfoSphere Guardium database monitoring capabilities, organizations can audit the databases that InfoSphere Optim accesses for improved visibility. You can also manage data retention policies within InfoSphere Optim or import policies into InfoSphere Optim with solutions such as IBM Global Retention Policy and Schedule Management for better management of data retention and defensible disposal. Applying suitable and secure methods for governance and compliance helps you prevent your information assets from becoming liabilities.

## Gain data insight and accelerate implementation with discovery

Successful projects begin with an accurate representation of the business object to be archived. Business objects are defined using relationships among data elements. Those relationships can be either explicitly declared within the database or inferred within the data itself.

Relationships declared within the database, such as primary or foreign key constraints, are easy to identify; InfoSphere Optim obtains them directly from the database catalog. Inferred relationships represent a more complex situation. Those relationships are enforced through application logic or business rules and are often hidden from view. They can be exposed by a formal process called discovery, which analyzes the data values and patterns to identify complex associations.

Included with InfoSphere Optim Archive Enterprise Edition, InfoSphere Discovery provides a full range of data analysis capabilities to capture these hidden correlations and bring them clearly into view. Techniques include single-source and cross-source data overlap analysis, advanced matching key discovery, reverse discovery based on transformation logic and more. The relationships identified during the discovery process are then aggregated to create the baseline business for archiving. Organizations can leverage InfoSphere Discovery to help ensure accuracy and completeness, and to speed the successful implementation of data archiving projects.

## Support your enterprise environments

InfoSphere Optim solutions provide an essential data lifecycle management approach that scales to meet enterprise needs. In addition to supporting your custom and packaged applications, InfoSphere Optim solutions provide a consistent data archiving, test data management and data privacy strategy across leading enterprise resource planning (ERP) and customer relationship management (CRM) applications: Oracle E-Business Suite, PeopleSoft Enterprise, JD Edwards EnterpriseOne and Siebel CRM. Plus, it supports virtually all major enterprise databases, data warehouses and operating systems: DB2, Oracle, Sybase, Microsoft SQL Server, IBM Informix, IBM IMS, IBM Virtual Storage Access Method (VSAM), IBM PureData for Analytics (formerly Netezza), Teradata, Microsoft Windows, UNIX, Linux and IBM z/OS.

## Why IBM?

IBM DataOps capabilities help create a business-ready analytics foundation by providing market-leading technology that works together with AI-enabled automation, infused governance, and a powerful knowledge catalog to operationalize continuous, high-quality data across the business. Increase data quality to provide an efficient, self-service data pipeline to the right people at the right time from any source.

## For more information

Learn about IBM InfoSphere Optim Archive at [ibm.com/us-en/marketplace/infosphere-optim-archive](https://ibm.com/us-en/marketplace/infosphere-optim-archive).

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