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IBM InfoSphere Optim Archive for Application Retirement

Streamline infrastructure and invest savings into high-value areas such as cloud, mobile and big data

Highlights

- Securely collect, manage and store data from retired applications
- Consolidate multiple applications and data stores
- Facilitate compliance with data retention regulations
- Respond quickly and accurately to audit and discovery requests
- Retire applications without having to move all data into new systems

Organizations rely on enterprise resource planning (ERP), customer relationship management (CRM) and other custom and packaged applications to collect and manage the critical business information that drives daily operations. Just keeping the current systems running can comprise 60 to 80 percent of your IT budget.[1]

Streamlining your infrastructure by consolidating data from similar business applications and retiring redundant applications will help you reclaim substantial resources. You can reinvest those resources to support new applications and high-value initiatives such as cloud computing, social business, enterprise mobility, and big data and analytics. Reducing infrastructure complexity also lessens your business risk.

Many organizations hesitate to consolidate and eliminate redundant or obsolete applications because they fear losing access to the underlying application data. In addition, organizations must continue to manage historical data to comply with governance and regulatory data retention requirements. The business reality is that in almost all cases, organizations must retain access to legacy data while eliminating the applications and databases from production.

With some consolidation projects, it might not be cost-effective to move all historical data to the new, consolidated application or platform. Moving large volumes of historical data consumes costly storage capacity and can degrade application performance. Similarly, with some application retirement projects, there is the question of how to retain

access to historical data after an application is removed from service.

How can you move forward with consolidation and retirement projects while retaining access to current and historical data? Intelligent database archiving—a recognized best practice—offers a viable solution.

Preserve historical data in its business context

The IBM InfoSphere Optim Archive for Application Retirement solution provides database archiving capabilities that enable IT organizations to archive and remove historical reference data safely from the application or system being consolidated or retired. IT organizations can move just the current data to the new or consolidated application, while managing historical data and keeping it accessible. Archived data can be transferred to a variety of lower-cost storage media, based on its business value and access requirements.

Data retention regulations such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, Basel II, the Dodd-Frank Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) require organizations to keep historical data in its original business context for specified periods of time. Using InfoSphere Optim, an organization can capture and remove subsets of related data that make up a logical business object, such as "payments" or "policies." Typically, these business objects are associated with other reference details using database key relationships or by means of the relationships defined in the application business logic.

Unlike ongoing archive projects that remove historical data from production systems, application retirement requires some special capabilities to ensure compliance:

- The data archived must be independently accessible from the original application.

- An archived action will, in many cases, take place only once for the data set.

- The data will never need to be restored, as the application will no longer exist.

- All of the data is archived based on business objects. This ensures the data is archived in its original business context prior to any transformations.

Automate discovery, help ensure accuracy and speed implementation

Successful projects begin with an accurate representation of the business object to be archived. Business objects ensure that future references to archived data maintain application context and referential integrity. These objects are defined with relationships that comprise declared database- and application-enabled referential integrity.

Relationships declared in the database are fairly easy to discover by looking at the database structure and reverse-engineering the context into InfoSphere Optim. In the most complex cases, however, data relationships can be obscured in the database or even enforced with application logic. A formal discovery process, which analyzes the data directly to uncover complex associations, can expose these hidden relationships.

IBM InfoSphere Discovery provides a full range of data analysis capabilities to bring hidden correlations 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 derived from the discovery process automatically define a baseline business object, ready for customization and refinement for final deployment by InfoSphere Optim.

Provide on-demand access to archived application data

InfoSphere Optim offers options for locating and retrieving an entire archive or any desired portion of an archive, as needed—no matter where it is stored. If necessary, IT staff can restore archived data to an application database or separate platform. The destination database does not have to be the same type, version or even on the same platform as the originating database. Because archive processing preserves the complete business object, archived data can always be retrieved independently of the original custom or packaged application.

InfoSphere Optim also provides a consistent method for reporting on historical records, regardless of the application, version or platform where the data was originally managed. With the application-independent access of InfoSphere Optim, companies can rely on industry-standard methods, such as ODBC/JDBC, XML or SQL, and reporting tools such as IBM Cognos Business Intelligence software to access archived historical data (see Figure 1). Capabilities to query, browse and generate reports enable organizations to respond quickly and accurately to audit or discovery requests.

Support enterprise environments

InfoSphere Optim provides a central data lifecycle management solution that scales to meet enterprise needs. It supports a consistent data archiving approach for leading ERP and CRM applications, including SAP, Oracle E-Business Suite, PeopleSoft Enterprise, JD Edwards EnterpriseOne, Siebel CRM and Amdocs CRM. And it supports all major enterprise databases and operating systems: IBM DB2, Oracle, Sybase, Microsoft SQL Server, IBM Informix, IBM IMS, IBM VSAM, Microsoft Windows, UNIX, Linux and IBM z/OS.

Cloud-enabled

InfoSphere Optim can be deployed in a cloud environment to offer features and functionality from the cloud. Users can run the archiving software on the cloud, store and manage archived data on the cloud, or both.

Three feature highlights in InfoSphere Optim

Highlight #1: Enhanced user interface

IBM has enhanced the user interface for InfoSphere Optim Archive for Application Retirement to improve client usability. This easy-to-use GUI helps increase end-user productivity and speed solution deployments.

Highlight #2: Improved reporting

Data Growth Consumption reports available in InfoSphere Optim Archive for Application Retirement offer insight into the success of archive projects. The reports highlight how much data has been consumed by the solution. Filters for viewing data consumption by archive date or data source provide detailed perspectives on how data is being archived with the overall solution.

A new, built-in InfoSphere Optim process monitor enables in-depth process reporting for current and past archive processes. Service monitoring shows which archive processes are active and which ones have completed. Details about completed processes, such as access strategies, table statistics, the location of archived projects and more, are available by drilling down into the process to see exactly how the service was executed against the source.
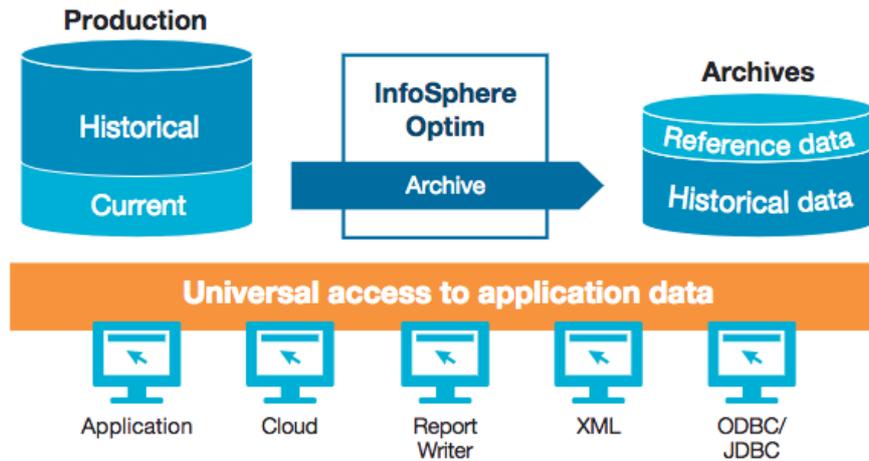
Figure 1. IBM InfoSphere Optim helps organizations segregate inactive application data from current activity, safely remove it to a secure archive and keep it accessible.

Highlight #3: Dormant data identification

How do you know which data is active and which is dormant? InfoSphere Optim Archive for Application Retirement offers a report of dormant data showing which data fields have not been accessed over a particular time period. Businesses are often surprised to find that some systems have not been accessed in months or years. Dormant data analysis helps teams prioritize which projects to archive and which data to keep live in production systems.

[1]IDC. "Application Provisioning: Application Portfolio Rationalization—Consolidation and Retirement Strategies." Doc # 244530. November 2013.

Why IBM?

To learn more about IBM InfoSphere Optim Archive visit :ibm.com/us-en/marketplace/infosphere-optim-archive

IBM offers a comprehensive, scalable Unified Governance and Integration platform and solutions—available on premises, on cloud and hybrid environments—successfully delivering trusted data for insights and compliance to businesses, governments and individuals.

For more information

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Additionally, IBM Global Financing provides numerous payment options to help you acquire the technology you need to grow your business. We provide full lifecycle management of IT products and services, from acquisition to disposition. For more information, visit: ibm.com/financing

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