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The 5 Pillars of a Successful Information Lifecycle Management Strategy

Companies face increased pressure to build a strategic information lifecycle management (ILM) strategy for their SAP environments that will balance costs and business data availability needs. To achieve this balance and meet compliance requirements, companies need tools that will support the five pillars of ILM: data archiving, data access, policies, storage, and decommissioning.

1. Support Data Archiving

Growing databases are substantial cost drivers in many systems since legal requirements mean that data may have to stay online for up to 10 years. SAP's data archiving functionality helps companies keep this data growth under control within SAP applications. PBS supplements SAP's data archiving functionality with:

- The **PBS CUSTOM tool**, which generates complete data archiving infrastructures for customer-specific developments or extensions developed with ABAP
- **CBW NLS IQ for SAP NetWeaver BW**, which allows you to move data from the SAP NetWeaver Business Warehouse (SAP NetWeaver BW) database to the Sybase IQ database and provides full query retrieval with standard SAP NetWeaver BW queries¹

2. Provide Data Access

Business users often want unlimited access to application data – no matter where that data is stored. To provide integrated access to application databases and the archived data they hold, PBS offers archive add-ons for SAP ERP, SAP industry solutions, and the PBS Nearline Storage Solutions for SAP NetWeaver BW. These SAP-certified add-ons provide the archived data access needed to entice business users to accept data archiving initiatives.²

¹ Both solutions are SAP-certified. Visit www.pbs-software.com/SAP-Zertifizierung.311.0.html?&L=1 for more information.

² See www.pbs-software.com/SAP-Zertifizierung.311.0.html?&L=1 for certification details.

3. Enforce Policies

Country-specific regulations and internal company guidelines dictate how long to retain data. SAP NetWeaver Information Lifecycle Management helps companies comply with retention periods. And PBS supports this functionality with PBS ContentLink, which earned the ILM-enhanced WebDAV interface certification. This solution allows companies to implement SAP's retention management functionality using the ILM WebDAV protocol.

4. Set Up Storage

When business data is archived, companies need to ensure that the storage is compliant – for both structured and unstructured data. PBS ContentLink supports SAP ArchiveLink and the ILM WebDAV protocol. In addition, cost analyses from current installations of PBS ContentLink demonstrate that companies using this tool have seen significant cost reductions.

5. Decommission Old Systems and Data Access

Many SAP customers must decommission their old systems while still providing access to the data these systems house for legal and business reasons. SAP NetWeaver Information Lifecycle Management's retention warehouse provides this access once the legacy system has been shut down, through SAP NetWeaver BW integration. PBS's new Enterprise Content Store is an alternative solution that supports the decommissioning of SAP systems, in that it provides access to data created with the SAP data retention tool, DART. The solution operates independent of the SAP system.

Conclusion

PBS's ILM product portfolio supports the realization of a long-term ILM initiative in an SAP environment. In addition, the PBS Partner Network – made up of a number of connected consulting and reselling companies – provides the experience needed to see an ILM initiative from start to finish. To learn more, visit www.pbs-software.com. ■

PBS's tools complement SAP's information lifecycle management offerings and support an efficient, holistic ILM strategy.