

SAP Data Archiving Assessment

A strategic approach for SAP data archiving

SAP® provides industry-leading software solutions to thousands of companies worldwide. But these highly integrated, collaborative solutions generate large quantities of documents, reports, and transactional data daily. If not managed properly, this large volume of data can offset some of the numerous operational and competitive business advantages SAP solutions provide. To help businesses manage this data, EMC® Consulting offers an SAP data archiving assessment based on SAP standard tools and a best-practices consulting approach.

THE BIG PICTURE

- Assess business needs for SAP data archiving
- Identify fastest growing SAP archiving objects and tables
- Explain impact for end users
- Accelerate archiving project
- Estimate scope and effort of SAP data archiving project
- Provide compliance impact of residency and retention times

Business challenges

Organizations with SAP ERP systems that have been in production for a few years face one or more of the following challenges:

- High operating costs
- Low performance
- Risk of non-compliance

SAP recommends removing data which is no longer needed in everyday business processes from the database. SAP data archiving is the only method supported by SAP to remove application data from the database in a consistent, secure, and comprehensive manner.

Service description

Before you start an SAP data archiving project, you need to know how much disk space is occupied by certain application areas and how fast the database increases per month and year. EMC Consulting offers a standardized SAP data archiving assessment which starts with a presentation that explains SAP data archiving concepts, the archiving infrastructure, and the impact on applications and users. Your system is then analyzed and an assessment report is created that contains:

- Data allocation
- Data aging, retention, and residency requirements
- Archiving requirements
- Archiving object dependencies
- Data access requirements
- Guidelines for archiving policy
- Storage recommendation
- Achievable database reduction
- SAP data archiving best practices

SAP Data Archiving Assessment in action

EMC Consulting performed the SAP Data Archiving Assessment at a leading food group in Norway. Consultants analyzed the 550 GB database and calculated a yearly growth of 50 percent for the seven biggest SAP tables. 15 critical archiving objects were also identified. Consultants developed new residence times along with the company's IT and legal teams according to their business rules. The achievable database reduction was 35 percent. EMC Consulting recommended EMC Documentum® Archive Services for SAP and EMC Centera® (a secure and scalable content-addressed archiving solution) for data archiving. The data archiving project was started four weeks after the assessment. The infrastructure installation took five person days and a 35 percent database reduction has been achieved within four months.

The results of the assessment will be presented and discussed during an onsite workshop which covers:

- Initial SAP data archiving project plan
- Roles and responsibilities
- Consequences for end users
- Different display functionalities
- Residence and retention times
- Dependencies to other applications (DART, BI, print lists, document archiving)
- Recommended next steps

Duration

If the SAP production database is smaller than 1 TB, the total estimated effort for the SAP data archiving assessment is five person days.

Solution value

The assessment report enables you to plan the next SAP archiving project steps, efforts, and budget. It gives you insight into your SAP data structure and explains how to improve your system performance, optimize your storage requirements, and fulfill legal requirements through archiving. The service also provides best practice business and architectural advice and enables you to accelerate and prioritize your SAP archiving project.

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