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THE IT GAME IS WON BY DOING THE LITTLE THINGS RIGHT

Tom Landry, coach of the Dallas Cowboys for almost three decades, said, "The job of a football coach is to make men do what they don't want to do in order to achieve what they've always wanted to be." The same is true of being a parent. Your children don't always want to do what you tell them, but, if you're thoughtful about the rules you set and the expectations you have of them, they can achieve what they ultimately want to be. Stay the course. One day, they'll thank you for it. But when it comes to IT best practices, the task is a bit more difficult.

It's probably a shock to hear, but many companies have never archived their SAP data! We spoke with one company recently who said that in nearly 20 years of business, they hadn't thought about archiving once. Even though this process, once set up, can run in the background at pre-defined times like year-end, there's still a hesitation about archiving.

Well, when it comes to the game of IT, little things add up.

Data archiving can help you remove the obstacles, leaving the field wide open for you to get where you need to go. Why keep obstacles around that slow down your systems and bog down your resources?

There are many benefits to archiving, but here are a few:

More efficient systems. Systems with data that you don't need to access on a frequent basis can get sluggish. By clearing out the old data, you free up system resources and keep the system running optimally. In addition, data archiving makes it easier for the people who need access to data to find what they need.

Protection and risk avoidance. Last year, companies saved $11.4 million using their archives to mitigate risk and avoid litigation. Records retention, audits, disaster recovery and more are made possible through diligent data archiving,

which means your business is better protected from all kinds of negative scenarios.

Cost avoidance. Wouldn't it be nice to have a significant reduction in your operational and capital costs? Tiered storage allows you to use only the most expensive storage for applications that need it, and choose lower-cost options for the remaining data, while requiring fewer resources to maintain high-performance drives.

To find other benefits for archiving, download "5 Really Good Reasons to Integrate Archiving" from our website.

Of course, to make the most of your archiving, you need a consistent approach. Near the end of the year is a great time to assess your data situation and undertake an archiving project. Just keep in mind there's always a temptation to archive everything, but you don't want to put in the effort to sift through the data. Following an enterprise approach to archiving is a solid game for your team.

Laying aside our football analogy for now, we also think data archiving is the equivalent to an oil change for your database systems. Archiving is a crucial maintenance practice that's beneficial if you keep up with it on a periodic basis. You could theoretically run your car on the same oil for 100,000 miles, but those last 50,000 miles or so are going to be really rough driving! The same applies to enterprise database systems with no data archiving. It's not a sexy topic, even in the field of IT, but the cost savings are there if you want to claim them.

People invest millions and millions of dollars in their ERP systems and entrust the success of their entire businesses to them. What kind of risk are you willing to take if you don't do these simple maintenance tasks to help your systems run at their best and for as long as you need them to? You should think of data archiving as a necessary evil. After putting a huge investment into getting all your software up and running, it just makes sense to secure it with a small yearly investment in data archiving. Don't fumble this play and postpone it one more year.

To learn more about data archiving and Titan's Advisory Services, contact Kent Lamb at 214-632-5621 or email him at kent@titanconsulting.net.