HOW MUCH DOES A TERABYTE OF SAP DATA COST?
And Why You Should Archive It!

We've refreshed this paper to reflect just how quickly data is growing worldwide. Back in 2015, Forbes noted that "more data has been created in the past two years than in the entire history of the human race." That trend has only accelerated. By 2024, the world generated an estimated 149 zettabytes of data. For context, one zettabyte equals one trillion gigabytes. Remarkably, 90 percent of all data has been created in just the past two years. This rapid acceleration highlights the growing need for smart and scalable data management strategies.

What are you doing to manage your data?

The projection that "about 1.7 megabytes of new information will be created every second for every human being on the planet" was made in 2011 by the International Data Corporation (IDC). This prediction has proven to be remarkably accurate, with global data creation continuing at this pace.

This data growth is equivalent to each person on Earth generating the digital equivalent of Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, a 1.6 MB file, every second. Multiply that by 7 billion people and it is as if the book is being created 7 billion times every second. At this pace, data will only continue to grow exponentially year after year.

Data is a challenge and the cost of managing data increases annually. Yes, the cost per terabyte of storing data is going down with SANs, Cloud, Data Farms, etc., but the overall cost to create, capture, store, and maintain is going up – regardless of the ERP Application: ECC, Analytics, CRM or other mission-critical applications.

Is now the right time to address your Data Management and Archiving Strategy? Or do you wait until the problem has grown into a full-blown project?

There are many sound business reasons to drive your data management and archiving strategy. Here are a few:
1. Upgrading to HANA
2. Reducing risk and cost
3. Keeping your users satisfied

Upgrading to HANA:

Upgrading to any release of SAP applications is a reason to kickstart your data management and archiving initiative. A few key reasons to upgrade would be:

- Archiving helps reduce your data footprint, making system migrations to SAP HANA faster, more efficient, and less costly.
- Data quality is crucial during upgrades. As data volume grows, maintaining accuracy and consistency becomes more challenging.

One of our clients was planning for their HANA upgrade when we highlighted the benefits of data archiving their data beforehand. With a wry smile, he responded, "No thanks, we get 90% data compression in HANA, right?"

We reminded him that by reducing the data, they could lower their license fees since they're paying a premium for the in-memory HANA DB. In fact, reducing the data footprint could deliver a return on investment in 12 months or less, through savings on both license fees and infrastructure costs.

Reducing risk and cost:

What is the cost of a Terabyte of ERP data these days? An efficient data management strategy is scalable, long-term, and reduces costs. Live hot data costs a lot more – exponentially more – for the care and feeding of live data. Retired cold, archived data is still available near-line which reduces your infrastructure costs.

How long do you need to keep your data online?

We often hear that companies need to keep seven years of data. While this may or may not be the case, it's typically unnecessary to keep that data hot and online in a live database. Instead, archiving older data and keeping it near-line can meet retention requirements without the cost and complexity of maintaining it in an active system.

Business requirements are often the reason for not archiving the data. Many SAP customers, too many to count, have not archived a single kb. The reason, "Finance needs this data for audits" or "Operations rely upon this data for scheduling." Whatever the reason, an efficient strategy keeps data for a year or two after the transaction or process is complete, ensuring it's available for any necessary review or compliance requirements.

One of our clients found the value of archiving after an IRS audit. There is a misconception on how long to keep data on the live system. The seven-year rule drives most company's strategies. However, retaining data this long can expose you to additional risk in an audit.

They realized that having data accessible in your systems allows it to be discoverable in an audit or legal action? Why leave a door open if there is no need too?

Keep your users satisfied:

Large data volumes take time to query. Most standard and custom ECC reports only look back one year, at the most two years. The system, however, still must read all records to generate the output and often uses secondary indexes to retrieve the data.

Some bad habits start forming due to the extended time it takes to retrieve the data. You see an increase in spreadsheets and other desktop apps for downloaded data. These bad habits are linked to long run-times for reports and add to the business risk.

An additional benefit of a Data Management and Archiving Assessment is the opportunity to update your current data lifecycle management policies. Participants gain a clearer understanding of the value of data and its lifecycle.

Many of our customers prefer to keep Data Management and Archiving as a process, not a project.

Next Steps:

Do you have a Data Management and Archiving Strategy that needs to be dusted off, or do you need a Strategy in place before it becomes a full-blown project? Titan's Data Management and Archiving Assessment offers a roadmap for your data management needs, along with "Quick Wins" to deliver fast results. Contact your Titan Sales Director or visit our website at titanconsulting.net to get in touch with us.