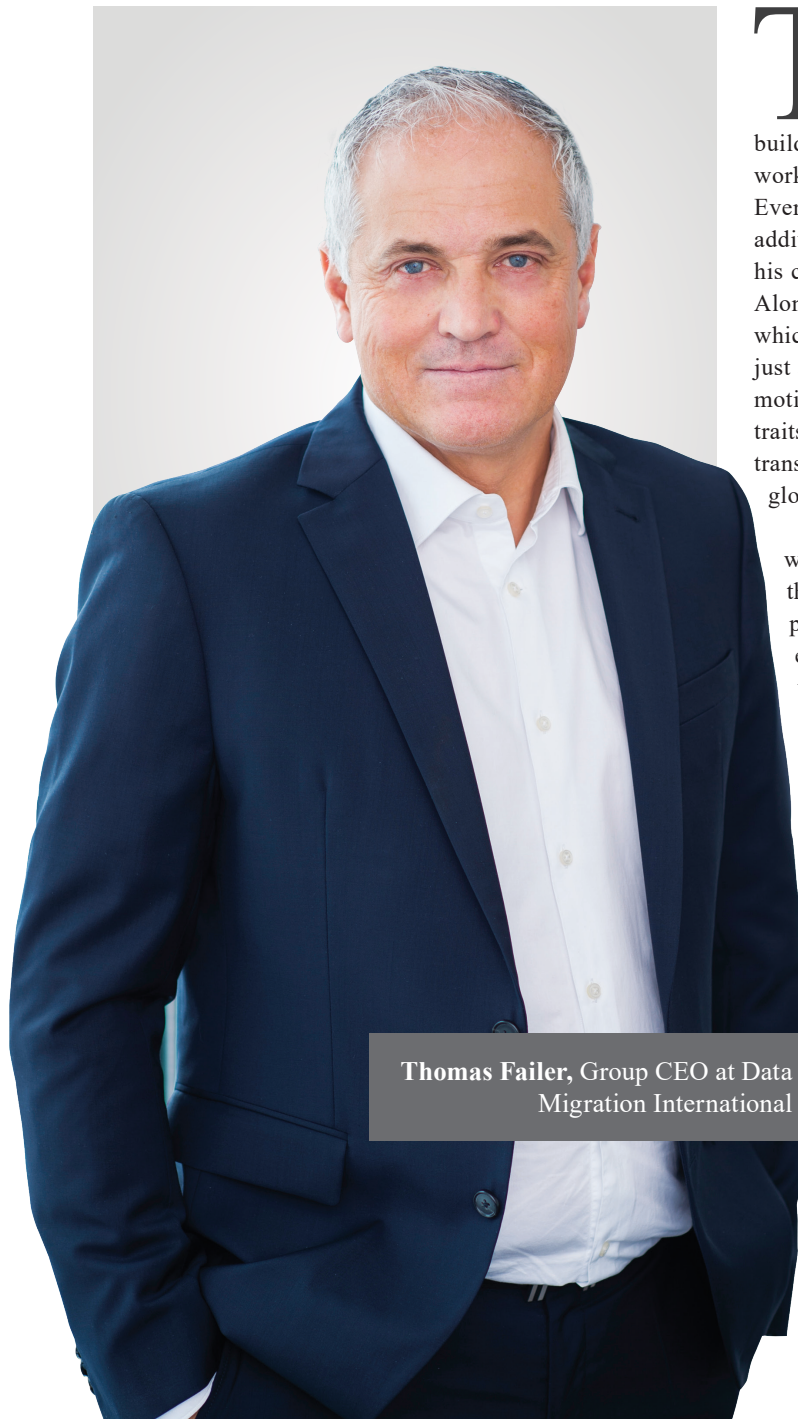# Data Migration International
Managing Enterprise Data

Thomas Failer, Group CEO at Data Migration International

Thomas Failer is a born transformer who understands how to build solid structures that can support growth while being flexible enough to adapt to external changes. In fact, he knows a lot about building – he completed an apprenticeship as a mason and worked in that area to finance his computer science degree. Ever since, building has been his passion as well as a hobby. In addition, he learned an important lesson in the early years of his career while managing a fairly large construction project. Alongside the technical aspects – the role and importance of which he knows inside out from his IT degree studies - it's just as crucial to manage complexity as well as to inspire and motivate everyone involved in the project. With these character traits and his knowledge and experience, he has successfully transformed his company from a project service provider to a global, fast-growing software provider.

When Thomas was just starting out, many companies were faced with the challenge of migrating SAP R/2 to the new SAP R/3 generation. They had the same basic problem that always arises when there's a change in enterprise software generations but one that's also due to the continual growth in information volumes. The fundamental challenges involved in managing historical information haven't changed since Data Migration International was founded – quite the opposite, in fact. In light of megatrends like digitalization, IoT, edge computing, big data, AI and machine learning, they're becoming even more prevalent. "Companies will find it increasingly difficult to leverage the potential value of historical information and documents unless they adopt a completely new approach to managing them," he adds.

Simplifying the Transformation

Complexity is the curse of IT. For legal reasons, data and documents must be kept unchanged and stored in their original format for several years or even decades. As a result, companies continue running their legacy systems for the legal retention period,

> The expansion of data and time horizons ist the foundational bedrock for data transformers. New intelligent platforms such as the JiVS Information Managment Platform (IMP) extend data-horizons into history to learn patterns that can predict the future. JiVS IMP platform manages the entire lifecycle of corporate data independently of existing systems and applications to increase efficiency and provide flexibility and agility for companies moving to the Digital Core

even after they've implemented new solutions and software generations. The number and heterogeneity of these systems is constantly increasing and companies must continue to maintain them all and pay for their licenses. Legacy systems also generate additional cost and workload, as they always need to be protected from cyber-attacks and other unauthorized access attempts to ensure they comply with new regulatory requirements, such as the GDPR obligation to delete data. Along with being expensive, this is only partially achievable, if at all, due to technical limitations. There's an additional business problem related to that, too: historical information contains a company's intellectual property, knowledge and experience – but also a wealth of interrelationships and value creation potential that could be detected and leveraged with new approaches like AI and machine learning. In view of the above-mentioned technical challenges posed by outdated legacy systems, this treasure trove will become ever harder to access over time, diminishing its value.

Against this backdrop, it's clear that companies need a completely new – and far simpler – approach to working with historical information. Data Migration International does this by extracting the information from the legacy systems to its cutting-edge information management platform that's system-independent (as it's Java-based) and is also certified by auditors. They store it there together with its original business context, so it's legally watertight and in a modern format. That way, the historical information stays 100% accessible and open to seamless lifecycle management processes through to its targeted and definitive deletion. Companies that have a single, centralized platform managing all their historical information are able to radically reduce IT complexity, because they can decommission all their legacy systems while unifying and harmonizing their operational system and application infrastructure across all of their datacenter locations. In addition, JiVS IMP provides methods of automatically separating out the data and documents from the information pool that need to be transferred from the legacy systems to the operational solutions. That delivers a reduction of up to 95 percent in the volume of data to be transformed and migrated. In addition, all of the information in JiVS IMP can be automatically optimized by cleaning up the data sets and enriching them with data from other sources such as third-party systems.

Towards the Future

About 50,000 SAP systems around the world must be migrated to SAP S/4HANA by the end of the decade at the absolute latest. SAP has launched its SAP S/4HANA Movement program to facilitate the transformation to the new software generation for existing SAP customers and accelerate the associated migration projects. The Movement program designates four main phases of the transformation: establishing the strategy; planning the project in details; selecting the appropriate technologies, approaches and solutions; and the ongoing optimization of the new environment and the processes it underpins. JiVS IMP supports all four phases of the Movement program, especially with its high degree of automation and potential for simplification – this is particularly due to the automated separation of operational and historical data. In addition, the benefits delivered by the platform aren't a one-hit wonder. Instead, they can be integrated into a continuing improvement cycle. In this way, customers can expect to reduce the overall operating costs of their SAP S/4HANA environments by 25 percent, as long as they integrate them with JiVS IMP and continue to export data and documents they no longer need in ongoing operations to the platform – and JiVS IMP can do this continually and automatically.

Data Migration International is not only continuing to invest massively in automation technologies, but also in new approaches like artificial intelligence and machine learning. These will make it even faster to detect, filter out and separate off the data and documents in the historical information pool that companies need in their operational systems. **IER**