Historical Data: Simplify, Automate, Save Money

Contribution by Thomas Failer, Founder and Group CEO of Data Migration International

The value of a company is measured by the total amount of information in its possession – including historical information. To make it more visible, simplification and automation are needed. By combining these two aspects, companies can save a lot of money – not tomorrow, but today.

Throughout many markets and industries, digital transformation requires intelligent answers that lead to long-term sustainable solutions despite the uncertainty that business leaders face when making decisions today. This is all the more true in the wake of the coronavirus crisis, as far-reaching restructuring is expected in many companies.

The true value of a company plays a decisive role here. The higher it is, the stronger the company's negotiating position and the greater its scope for action. A large part of this value lies in the company's data and documents: In many established industries, ranging from banks to manufacturing companies, this not only concerns the X and O data, i.e. transaction data from operations (O data) and all data relating to the user experience (X data – X stands for Experience), but also the historical information (H data). This is because the intellectual property and experience-based knowledge of a company is stored in its H data.

Separate, Automate, Save

To extract more added value from the history of IT legacy data, it is necessary to separate the X and O data from the H data and to manage the life cycle of the historical information separately on a different platform. This approach has many advantages: Even in the short term, companies can achieve significant cost savings because their legacy systems can be completely shut down after separating and outsourcing the information. As a result, it is usually possible to reduce operating costs by 80% compared with continuing to operate the old systems.

In addition, this transfer of legacy information – including the business context in which it was once created – makes it possible to significantly reduce the amount of data and documents that need to be transferred to the production systems. During a transformation to SAP S/4HANA, for example, the effort required to migrate the data can generally be halved.

Looking ahead, this short-term impact turns into long-term benefits: Historical information can be regularly transferred to a separate platform in order to manage the information – not only from systems to be decommissioned, but also from operational ones. As a result, the systems remain lean and agile in the long run and don't require a continuous expansion of resources. Against this background, reducing the total cost of ownership (TCO) of a new SAP S/4HANA environment by 25% is a realistic estimate.

Thomas Failer, Founder and Group CEO of Data Migration International

Ultimately, such a platform will be required for big data scenarios of any kind, allowing companies to cleanse and optimize legacy data in order to achieve audit-proof outsourcing and storage. This is crucial for making the promise of data-driven business processes and models a reality. After all, decisions based on data analysis are only as good as the quality of the data itself. This especially applies to scenarios where mass data is generated, which represent the future standard.

This platform is called JiVS IMP.

DATA MIGRATION INTERNATIONAL