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Simplifying Data Retention

Whether driven by federal, state or local regulations or by your company's management team, ensuring that corporate data is available when, where, and how it's needed is a focus for every IT organization around the world. In order to ensure data availability, one important aspect on which to focus your efforts is that of simplifying your data retention policies.

Why is Simplified Data Retention Important?

The cost of not having an effective data retention scheme can be anything from painful to catastrophic. Most data retention policies dictate what data must be kept, how long that data must be kept, how quickly it must be retrieved and how the long-term integrity and availability of the data will be ensured. If you have not effectively retained any particular piece of data that's critical to your business' operations, you might face anything from the inconvenience of trying to reproduce the data, to losing your job, to costing your company millions of dollars in fines. Simply put, you can't afford NOT to have a simplified data retention scheme that effectively utilizes the best solutions to solve specific data retention objectives.

Simplifying Data Retention Affects Business Productivity

If your company data is not in the right place at the right time, the impacts to your business can be significant. Whether it's an employee who can't complete a task because the data they need is unavailable or a multi-million dollar order you can't take because your customer information is unavailable, ineffective data retention policies can cripple the productivity of nearly every aspect of your business.

Having a data retention policy is one thing, having a simplified, practical policy is the next step. Overly-complex data retention policies can be ineffective and ultimately result in lost productivity. A complex policy that's tricky to implement means that your IT staff spends an inordinate amount of time trying to "band-aid" the system to ensure that your corporation's service level agreements are met. Meanwhile, instead of spending their time on business-critical activities (eg: keeping your systems running), your IT staff might be searching for an email your CEO sent yesterday and can't locate. On top of that, complex data retention policies are prone to error, which greatly increases your risk of not having data where it can be easily found.

Simplifying Data Retention Begins with You

The most effective data retention policies take into account the importance and value of the data you've been assigned to protect. Identifying your company's service level agreements is the perfect place to start to ensure an effective data retention policy. Ask yourself: 1) how much time do I have to get back my data? 2) how much data can I afford to lose? 3) what level of data will I need to recover? Identifying the answers to these questions will put you well on your way to implementing an effective data retention plan. Once you've done this, the next step is to identify the solutions that can best address your data retention requirements.

Tiered Data Protection Appliances from Overland Storage® offer midrange and distributed enterprises the ability to retain data in a simplified and cost-effective manner. Overland Storage high performance RAID arrays, advanced disk-based virtual tape libraries and best-in-class automated tape libraries enable a simplified, practical data retention plan. Whether you're driven by federal, state or local regulations or by your company's management team, Overland storage ensures that information is constantly protected, readily available, and always there.

