

A SOLIX WHITEPAPER

ENTERPRISE DATA MANAGEMENT “AS-A-SERVICE”

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Introduction

The explosion of enterprise data is recognized as one of the most pressing challenges facing organizations today, and Enterprise Data Management (EDM) has emerged as the best practice for organizations to improve application performance, reduce costs and maintain compliance. Data growth strains infrastructure budgets, degrades application performance and availability, and makes SLAs difficult to meet. Older, inactive data is also a legal liability. To meet this challenge, many organizations are implementing information retention policies that define how long IT should retain specific kinds of data based on compliance requirements and business needs.

Database archiving, for instance, is a technology solution that can address these challenges. Relocating older, inactive data to an archive database (or removing it entirely when its retention date is reached) can significantly increase application performance and reduce infrastructure load. Nonetheless, many organizations still suffer with sub-par performance or strain their budgets by “throwing more hardware” at the problem.

Why is that? IT organizations are really busy. They have more projects to do than people to do them, and IT skill players are swamped. Furthermore, capital budgets in today’s economy are under constant pressure. While critically important, activities such as database archiving are generally not considered “core to the business,” nor should they be. So, is there a better way than “throwing more hardware” at the problem?

Until now, the answer was no. Customers had one way to do business. Buy a perpetual software license, pay annual maintenance on that license, and source the skills necessary to implement the software. Only after a lengthy software evaluation and implementation would the benefits of an EDM project become realized. However, Solix Technologies, Inc. is changing that model with the introduction of Enterprise Data Management “As-a-Service.”

Solix EDMS Managed Services

Over the last few years Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) and Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) have gained increased attention, and managed services have been deployed by increasing numbers of companies. Managed services generally handle specific IT tasks that are either non-critical, require skills that are lacking in-house, or need to be delivered to remote physical locations. The benefits include:

- Rapid provisioning and implementation.
- High levels of service and security.
- A pay-as-you-go low cost delivery model similar to that of the electric and telephone utilities.
- Little or no implementation or configuration skills required of the user.

Solix Enterprise Data Management Suite (EDMS) Managed Services operate according to pre-defined business rules. Security and performance are guaranteed through Service Level Agreements (SLAs), freeing IT staff to focus on innovation rather than running one more back office system. Solix EDMS Managed Services require minimal staff involvement, and when combined with Solix Cloud require zero infrastructure or capital outlay. For a low fee, Solix EDMS Managed Services deliver database archiving, data masking, test data management and application retirement. All customers need to do is supply the policies and business rules – and of course – enjoy the benefits of efficient data management.

Setting up Solix EDMS Managed Services is simple. First, Solix works to understand the customer’s data retention policy and service level requirements. Next, the customer decides whether to use the Solix Cloud as an infrastructure solution to host and manage data or whether to deploy the service on-premise.

Fees for Solix EDMS Managed Services contain four components:

1. **Setup Fee** - A one-time charge to setup Solix EDMS.
2. **Base Price** - Covers the cost for the Solix Cloud infrastructure (if you have selected that option) and the Solix EDMS software. This low monthly fee is based on the size of infrastructure needed and comes in three sizes: Small, Medium, and Large.
3. **Usage Fee** - Calculated monthly based on the amount of source data (in GB) to be archived.
4. **Solix EDMS Managed Services Fee** - A monthly charge based on service scope and data governance policies. For example, a fast growing application may need to be archived on a weekly basis. A slower growing application may be archived on a monthly or quarterly basis while still meeting retention policy objectives.

Solix EDMS Managed Services has four components: Database Archiving, Test Data Management, Data Masking and Application Retirement.

Solix EDMS Managed Services: Database Archiving

Database archiving improves the performance of mission critical transaction processing applications. These may be commercial applications supplied by a vendor like Oracle, or they may be custom developed applications. Archiving relocates older, inactive, transactional data to an archive database. This approach improves application performance while providing access to the archived data for as long as the retention policy specifies.

Prior to the availability of Solix Cloud and Solix EDMS Managed Services, database archiving implementations required upfront capital investment. Expenses included a license for the database archiving software, a server to run the software, and in some cases, an additional database license as well. The project would require that key technical staff be pulled from other assignments temporarily to implement the archive system. Solix EDMS Managed Services, in conjunction with Solix Cloud, provides enterprise data management thru an on demand model. The service includes all of the software, infrastructure and ongoing operations for a low fee.

Solix EDMS Managed Services: Test Data Management

Cost and efficiency are critical objectives for managing non production data. Test Data Management (TDM) helps IT organizations reduce storage costs and manage non production data more efficiently. By leveraging database subset technology as an alternative to full database cloning, test cycle times are improved and storage costs are reduced. In a typical IT organization, six to eight full size database clones are created for each application database. Database clones are used by application developers and quality assurance teams for development activity such as application testing, upgrades, migration, training and performance testing. So, if the production database is 1TB, then the entire storage landscape may be 8TB or larger. By using intelligently sized database subsets instead of full clones, the storage multiplier effect to support non-production data can be minimized by up to 70%.

In addition to chewing up raw storage, non-production data is also a huge consumer of data center resources. Mass storage devices are top consumers of power, air conditioning, and floor space. On top of this, the impact on application development lifecycles is severe as IT resources and DBAs spend large amounts of time with inefficient processes. Full database copies are seldom needed, and the cost savings from database subsets may be significant.

Solix EDMS Managed Services for TDM brings efficiency to the creation and management of database clones and subsets. Best practices are enforced through configurable business rules for test data management, and a full scope of services is available to speed application test cycles and reduce non production storage costs.

Solix EDMS Managed Services: Data Masking

Database security has become a major business concern in this age of escalating cyber-crime. Exposure of sensitive data can result in major business losses including brand loyalty from hacked bank accounts and legal action by customers and government regulators.

In consequence, businesses of all sizes invest heavily in cyber security. With the focus on perimeter defenses and protecting production databases, non-production environments are often left unprotected. Extending the full security umbrella to these environments could be costly or interfere with legitimate development activities. But a lack of protection often leaves the data exposed to trainees, outside consultants, and other unauthorized users. In addition major compliance frameworks such as PCI/PII/PHI require that all sensitive non-production data be properly secured.

Solix EDMS Managed Services for Data Masking provides a flexible and cost-effective approach to secure non-production data. By its nature application and test data cannot be encrypted because the data must be read by the application in order to be tested. Data masking, on the other hand, renders data objects obfuscated and unidentifiable, but also ensures that the data format remains valid for testing purposes.

Solix EDMS Managed Services: Application Retirement

Gartner estimates that “on average 10% of applications running in an un-optimized portfolio are candidates for retirement. And an additional one-third can require migration or rationalization.” Retiring these applications can pay tremendous dividends by freeing staff for more important assignments, eliminating licensing and maintenance fees, and halting electricity charges. Furthermore, by repurposing servers and storage systems for other jobs, new capital outlays can be avoided as well. Solix EDMS Managed Services for Application Retirement is a highly automated and secure answer to application retirement, data migration, retention management and legacy data access issues.

Honeywell, a leading industrial manufacturer was modernizing its application platforms around a new set of common processes, and it chose to use Solix EDMS Managed Services for Application Retirement to retire its inactive legacy data. “Solix allows us to retire our legacy application data and still provide access to that data to our end users,” said Kim Shockey, Director of Applications, for Honeywell Automated Control Systems. “The Solix pay-as-you-go model allowed us to deliver significant cost savings back to the business by decommissioning legacy applications on our own schedule without having to make a big, upfront commitment.”

For many customers, traditional licensing models do not make sense for application retirement. Retiring a legacy application is by definition, a one-time event. For customers with only a few applications to retire, buying a perpetual license may not be justified, and the traditional implementation approach utilizing limited internal resources makes even less sense. The focus for these customers is on the new application platform, not the legacy applications. Why dedicate your limited resources doing a set of one-time tasks on platforms that you have decided to abandon?

With Solix EDMS Managed Services for Application Retirement, customers can stay focused on their new applications while being assured that their legacy data will be safely archived and managed in the Solix Cloud.

Solix EDMS Managed Services: Summary

Database Archiving, Application Retirement, Data Masking and Test Data Management are best practices to help achieve the goals of improved application performance, cost savings, compliance and disaster recovery. While perpetual license and traditional project implementation models were once the only choice, on demand and pay-as-you-go models are now available to help IT deliver a higher level of service for less. Solix EDMS Managed Services allow organizations to focus on core business projects and still achieve enterprise data management best practices



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