Information Lifecycle Management (ILM)

The challenge in the conflict zone of IT optimization and business demands

Each company today is confronted with the task of handling ever greater amounts of particularly unstructured data (emails, pictures, videos, documents). The growing amount of data leads to complicated administration, worse performance and longer backup cycles. Moreover, employees spend longer looking for information or struggle with various versions of documents, without clearly knowing which is currently valid.

Furthermore, higher demands due to more than 20,000 regulatory provisions worldwide, such as GeBüV, SOX or SEC, make it more difficult to manage and archive information according to specific requirements.

It is being increasingly acknowledged that each item of information corresponds to a corporate value which changes over time: information that is highly valuable at a particular point in time will scarcely be relevant later on.

At the same time, there are economic considerations: IT costs need to be reduced, and the benefit for the business divisions needs to be optimized. The IT infrastructure should be adapted to the business demands as much as possible, and store and manage information on the entire lifecycle according to its current worth.

These points are addressed by the ILM concept, which ensures that business and IT are optimally aligned to each other.

The advantages of IBM Information Lifecycle Management

- Proven IBM ILM methodology, which aims to reconcile business requirements with IT
- Focussing on other ILM areas such as storage architecture, backup concepts, Enterprise Content Management (ECM) or archiving etc. helps to optimize your Information Lifecycle
- Reduction of the process cycle time thanks to improved usage of existing information
- Implementation of the various laws and regulations leads to improved Risk Management and greater flexibility. This also applies with regard to future compliance demands
- Optimization of the operative data volumes on low cost media and transfer to an archive, as well as relieving the strain on the backup infrastructure
- Improved employee productivity: Content Management and Data Management systems support users in the search for, and maintenance of, information
The IBM ILM concept

IBM possesses a proven ILM methodology, which takes into account the various areas of ILM (see ILM focal areas), in order to achieve reconciliation between IT optimization and business demands concerning data management. In doing so, the future information architecture will be developed in four phases:

- **Strategy definition:**
  Here information and the demands it makes on administration is gathered, classified and the superordinate ILM strategy developed

- **Architecture:**
  Based on the strategy definition, the conceptual and/or functional information architecture is defined

- **Solution Approach:**
  The conceptual architecture will be expanded further, and concrete product proposals will be evaluated

- **Assessment/Transition:**
  Implementation of the defined ILM architecture will occur based on various projects

The ILM focal areas

Developing an ILM concept always implies focusing on the improvement of other ILM areas. These may include:

- **Storage architecture:**
  For the most part, the ILM concept identifies improvement potential in the current storage architecture as well as in the implementation path

- **Backup concepts:**
  Based on the ILM concept, the backup infrastructure and organization can be further expanded and optimized

- **Enterprise Content Management (ECM):**
  The ILM concept generally identifies where the challenges related to unstructured data exist, and how these can be brought into a structured form with an ECM approach

- **Archiving:**
  Handling and storing information that needs to be archived can be specifically accommodated in one ILM concept

Your benefits

The improved usage of existing information reduces process cycles and increased employee efficiency. Moreover, the entire information lifecycle is accommodated, and the management tools are adapted to the actual value of the information.

Costs of the IT infrastructure can be reduced by optimizing the storage environment. The future demands on storage space are controlled and reduced in the long run thanks to solutions for structured document management.

Laws and regulations are more easily adhered to due to the relevant policies and a coordinated infrastructure. This leads to improved Risk Management as well as the ability to implement future compliance demands quickly and flexibly.

Your contact partner

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