Syngenta ensures compliance with HP and iTernity

Agribusiness giant streamlines archiving with iTernity Compliant Archive Software on HP servers and storage

Industry
Agrochemical

Objective
Maintain compliance with an immutable archive of financial and business records

Approach
Work with HP Enterprise Services and HP AllianceOne Partner of the Year, iTernity, to deploy the iTernity Compliant Archive Software on HP ProLiant BL460c Server Blades with HP 3PAR StoreServ Storage

IT matters
- Creates tamper-proof archives of important financial statements, human resources records, and other critical business and legal documents
- Improves the speed and reliability of archiving and retrieving records
- Provides archiving for multiple applications with one integrated solution

Business matters
- Ensures compliance with highly trusted KPMG certification
- Provides end users with transparent access to archived documents
- Helps Syngenta be highly responsive during audits and when handling general inquiries requiring referral to historical records

"We needed a certified archive solution. iCAS holds the highly trusted KPMG certification, which gave us confidence that it would meet our compliance requirements."

– Tjerk Boorsma, IS Strategic Supplier Manager, Syngenta Business Services

When optical disk-based WORM technology became obsolete, Syngenta needed a modern archiving solution that could maintain compliance and provide future-proof integrity protection. Syngenta found the ideal solution with HP AllianceOne Partner of the Year, iTernity. Running on HP ProLiant BL460c Server Blades, iTernity Compliant Archive Software (iCAS) provides a fast, highly reliable archive solution that ensures compliance with KPMG certification.

Syngenta is one of the world's leading agribusinesses with more than 28,000 employees and presence in approximately 90 countries. The company is engaged in world-class science to enable sustainable agriculture solutions that help to increase crop productivity, protect the environment, and improve health.

As a publicly traded company, Syngenta must comply with industry and government regulations, such as Sarbanes-Oxley, which have strict requirements for financial accountability. Therefore, it must maintain a secure, unalterable archive of important financial statements, human resources records, and other critical business and legal documents. Much of these reports and records are generated by SAP, as well as an aconso human resources solution.

Syngenta previously relied on write-once-read-many (WORM) technology, using OpenText (formerly IXOS) software to manage the archive process onto optical disks. However, optical WORM archive systems became technologically outdated—too slow and maintenance-intensive to keep up with the pace of today's business world. Therefore, it was critical that Syngenta find a new storage solution that could manage retention policies and protect archive data to maintain compliance with greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Modern alternative to WORM

After evaluating options for a modern alternative to meet its archiving requirements, Syngenta found the ideal solution with iTernity and the integrated HP and iCAS solution. With iTernity´s iCAS software running on HP ProLiant BL460c Server Blades and managed by HP Enterprise Services, Syngenta benefits from WORM functionality and the same compliant archiving capabilities as before. But instead of writing to a slow and failure-prone optical disk, the archive data is now preserved on HP 3PAR StoreServ Storage.

iCAS works in conjunction with HP Records Manager, which manages the archive process from SAP, aconso, and other applications, and writes data onto the iCAS server. iCAS uses patented and certified Content Storage Container (CSC) technology to create objects containing both the data and metadata such as retention times. These objects are then stored on HP 3PAR StoreServ Storage in full compliance with regulations. Using iCAS as an archive middleware provides Syngenta with a complete solution that is very flexible and cost efficient. Archive data are no longer tied to a specific storage system but can be migrated to additional or other systems without losing their proof of authenticity.

Tjerk Boorsma, IS strategic supplier manager for Syngenta Business Services, says, "We needed a certified archive solution. iCAS holds the highly trusted KPMG certification, which gave us confidence that it would meet our compliance requirements."

Accelerated archiving and retrieval

Since implementing the iCAS solution with HP Enterprise Services, Syngenta has dramatically improved the speed and reliability of archiving and retrieving records. This allows the company to be highly responsive during audits and when handling general inquiries requiring access to historical records.

"For our users, the iCAS archives are completely transparent," notes Boorsma. "They can access archived records as easily as an active document and much faster than ever before."

In addition, iCAS extends Syngenta's archive capacity virtually without limits. iCAS can use several HP storage systems, present them as unified archive space to the applications, and scale up seamlessly as needed. The HP and iCAS solution also enabled Syngenta to expand its records management archive capabilities beyond SAP and aconso, to include email, documents, and a variety of other legal records.

Customer at a glance

HP Solution
- HP ProLiant BL460c Server Blades
- HP 3PAR StoreServ Storage
- HP Autonomy Consolidated Archive

iTernity Software
- iTernity Compliant Archive Software

Looking ahead, Syngenta now has an archive infrastructure that enables it to include many additional business processes and information. This is essential as the company grows and as regulatory requirements continue to evolve.

About iTernity

iTernity is a leading vendor for data management and archiving software. The company's mission is to transform traditional archiving silos into future-proof archive solutions within heterogeneous infrastructures. Built on open industry standards, iTernity solutions deliver hardware-independent disk-based archive solutions, data replication, continuous data self-healing, and compliance-assured cloud backup.

iTernity Compliant Archive Software (iCAS) is a unique patented solution that creates content storage containers, called CSC, which protect data from manipulation and allow for revision management. The software complies with various regulations (e.g., SEC 17a-4, etc.) and has been certified by the audit, tax and advisory provider, KPMG AG. The KPMG certificate proves that if iCAS is used properly, the archiving and retrieval of electronic documents is performed according to the relevant commercial and tax laws. iTernity maintains headquarters in Freiburg, Germany with agents throughout Europe and the Americas. More information is available at iternity.com.

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