TRANSFORMATION.
CONSOLIDATION.
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MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MANUFACTURER IN USA SAVES $700K-PLUS WITH TWO-STAGE SAP ARCHIVE ARCHITECTURE TRANSFORMATION

"We made our migration deadline, but best of all we delivered a new archival landscape with an efficient architecture that was greatly simplified from the previous version."

Senior Architect, Transformation Project

Industry:
Manufacturing of building products for business and residential.

Background:
The company embarked on a cost-cutting campaign in 2011 and identified its SAP archival landscape as an opportunity for significant improvement.

Challenge:
To upgrade its archival landscape for SAP and then, five years later, to create a second system in advance of an upcoming corporate divestiture that would create two corporate entities.

Solution:
iTernity Compliant Archive Software (iCAS)
KGS ContentServer4Storage (CS4S)

THE SUCCESS AT A GLANCE:

✓ Cost savings of more than $700K through ability to reduce hardware and maintenance costs through virtualization

✓ KGS MIG4AL's unique proxy functionality made it possible to switch to the new architecture without delay

✓ The new landscape will help the company fulfill its plan to move some functions to the cloud in the future

2011: FIRST MIGRATION – SIMPLIFICATION

In 2011, the company embarked on a cost-cutting campaign and identified its SAP archival landscape as an opportunity for significant improvement. At the time the company was using SAP enterprise software, and relying on an OpenText document management system for SAP to archive about 28 million invoices, purchase orders and other documents. Archived files went to redundant 20 Terabyte EMC Centera storage systems. The manufacturer brought in SolutionXchg to oversee the switch from OpenText to KGS ContentServer4Storage (CS4S).

> *"We saw this as a perfect opportunity to help our client cut archival costs substantially by replacing an outdated, legacy architecture,"*

says Kristin Gerling, SolutionXchg Managing Partner. SolutionXchg helped the company replace the OpenText system with KGS CS4S. The new software supports VMWare virtualization and is fully compatible with the SAP ArchiveLink interface, eliminating the need for any changes to SAP applications. In addition, the utilized KGS migration product features an intelligent proxy function that prevents interruptions in normal business processes while the migration is underway.

COST BENEFITS

Between 2011 and 2016, when the company again refreshed its migration landscape, the KGS-powered landscape saved more than $700K. This savings comes from costs associated with archival maintenance and the ability to reduce hardware and maintenance costs through virtualization:

- $360K saved – The KGS system cut yearly maintenance fees from $180K to $90K, with the first year's costs adding a $90K fee for migration services. Yearly maintenance savings each year after were $90K.

- $300K saved – The old archival system required the services of a halftime administrator, which, with benefits calculates to $60K yearly.

- $49K saved – Virtualization helped lower the costs of two servers from $30K to $3K; five years of maintenance also fell from $25K to $3K.

2016: DIVESTITURE – TRANSFORMATION

Based on the success of the 2011 OpenText replacement project, the company decided to bring SolutionXchg back to oversee a new project: As part of a corporate spinoff, the existing archival system had to be split as well. The spin-off would result in two companies, with the original business concentrating on one product line, and the new one on a separate second product line. The goal: to create identical systems, one for each entity, that would build off, update, and add to the KGS architecture of the original installation.

> *"We decided to upgrade to the latest, redesigned version, KGS 4.3, and then create an identical system for the new business,"*

says the manufacturer's Senior Architect for SAP technology. SolutionXchg also would help replace the EMC Centera systems with iTernity iCAS software-defined archival storage.

REDUCING STORAGE REDUNDANCY

Rather than buy new EMC Centeras, the technical team elected to place iCAS with the company's existing Hewlett Packard Enterprise 3PAR StoreServ arrays. The parent company was already using HPE 3PAR storage for its SAP ERP applications. Adding the storage retention function would let the company retire the existing EMC Centeras, saving money – and avoiding uncertainty – in the process.

> *"We were looking at an end-of-life situation with the Centeras,"* says the lead technical architect for SAP. *"Since we were now going to double up on everything, we didn't want to have to buy new Centeras and then, a year later, have to buy something else."*

The benefit of the move resulted in an estimated TCO reduction of about $50k annually by eliminating floor space requirements locally and in the disaster recovery location and reducing hardware management efforts. These savings will amount to more than $300K over the next six years. Add this to the $709K savings from the initial KGS migration and the manufacturer is on the way to save more than a million dollars over the next six-year period.

TIME SAVED – FUTURE ASSURED

"Also, it was critical to keep migration time to a minimum because we had a hard deadline," says the lead architect. "That's because we needed to get the new system set up, archival and all, in time for the new company's release of common stock."

Here again, KGS MIG4AL's unique proxy functionality made it possible to switch to the new architecture without delay, seamlessly maintaining access to all existing archived documents. Running as a high-speed background process, the migration engine processed about two million documents a day, and was fully transparent to the end users. Without the proxy tool the project would have needed more time and would have incurred substantially greater internal and external costs.

"We made our migration deadline, but best of all we delivered a new archival landscape with an efficient architecture that was greatly simplified from the previous version,"

says the lead architect. The new landscape will also help the company fulfill its plan to move some functions to the cloud in the future. First would likely be the disaster recovery function. iCAS features like virtualization and encryption will facilitate that effort.

"Now that our archival landscape is fully virtualized it's a relatively simple matter to point to a new storage architecture, whether it's hardware-based or in the cloud," says the architect. "We'd trust SolutionXchg to recommend and configure an ideal setup for us. We haven't yet turned on iCAS' encryption feature, but it'll be good to have it there when we do get to the cloud."

DATA ARCHIVING MADE SIMPLE

iCAS is a flexible middleware for retention management & WORM storage. The solution integrates perfectly into heterogeneous infrastructure landscapes. While you take care of your core business, iCAS reliably protects the integrity and availability of your data in the background.

HARDWARE INDEPENDENT

The archive intelligence is tied to the software-layer, not to the hardware

COMPLIANT

iCAS assures regulatory and compliance requirements

FLEXIBLE

Middleware between your business application and the storage infrastructure

TAMPER-PROOF

iCAS provides WORM storage, encryption and retention management

THE CENTRAL PLATFORM FOR YOUR DATA MANAGEMENT

Business Applications/Data
ECM, ERP, PACS, E-Mail, Voice, Video, Customer Specific, etc.

iCAS Data Management and Protection
Encryption, Integrity Monitoring, Self-Healing, Retention, WORM

Storage Infrastructure
Onsite-, Cloud-, Object-Storage

iCAS protects data integrity and availability, even if the underlying storage technology and hardware changes in the future. As a software-defined solution, iCAS lays the foundation for audit-proof data archiving and protects your investments in hardware, software and services.

iCAS adapts to your IT infrastructure and adds compliance, data integrity protection and WORM storage (Write Once Read Many) to your existing systems.

iTernity

WE TAKE YOUR
DATA SECURELY
INTO THE FUTURE

We protect your business-critical data. The trust you place in us is our motivation and an investment in the future. The result: more security, less effort, no worries.

Our DNA is archiving, our mission the long-term availability and integrity of all types of corporate data. Our focus is on your challenges, whether data protection, cost pressure, data growth, cyber attacks, lack of time, or complexity –
we take your data securely into the future.

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