

A roadmap for optimizing storage investments and evolving archive strategies

Archive Analysis Service

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

An in-depth analysis of data usage patterns and file characterization to expose inactive data taking up expensive disk storage

Quick win recommendations identifying immediate opportunities to reduce disk storage and backup media usage

Forward-looking recommendations for implementing active archive strategies to assure affordable long-term storage growth

How much primary storage space is inactive data taking up in your organization? If your organization is like most, then it could be as much as 85%. According to Forrester Research, 85% of production data is inactive, and 68% has not been accessed in over 90 days. As a result, expensive transactional storage is utilized to house a large portion of inactive data.

If you don't know how much space inactive data is taking up, then chances are your organization is struggling with explosive data growth, pressure to add more and more expensive disk storage, and problems meeting backup objectives.

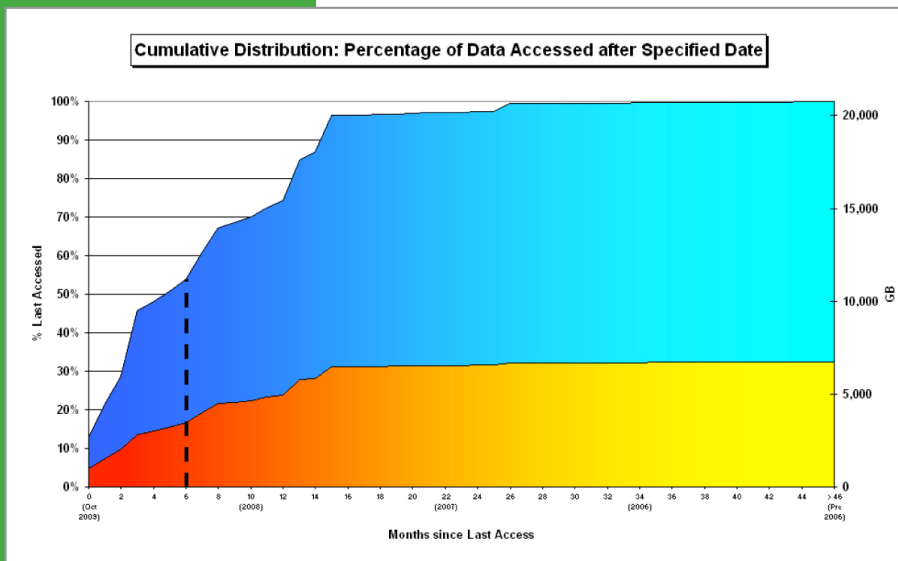
Exposing Inactive Data

The Archive Analysis service will expose the inactive and static data in your environment and provide a roadmap to optimize existing storage assets as well as a storage management plan for future growth. Our analysis provides detailed profiling and categorization of all files in your storage environment. The resulting report, in which we outline our findings and recommendations, will lay the groundwork for both short-term and strategic data management decision-making.

Identifying the Opportunities for Improvement

SGI storage experts will utilize a non-intrusive command line utility to collect detailed information about each device, volume and file in your storage network. The detailed audit of your storage environment gathers critical information and produces in-depth data profiles. For example, file type profiling will highlight the amount of storage being used by static content such as images, videos and pdf files. Simply implementing recommended changes to file attributes or backup policies can have a dramatic impact on the amount of data that needs to be stored on backup media.

The graph to the left illustrates another profile of file access dates. The dashed line indicates a little over 50% of the data on primary storage has not been accessed in over 6 months. By implementing an automated, tiered virtualization strategy, a significant amount of inactive data could be moved to an inexpensive archive tier.



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Balancing the Needs of the Individual and the Business

We recognize an effective archive strategy is not just about where the data should reside. It also requires balancing business objectives around retention policies and data protection, as well as end user needs to have immediate access to archived files at any time. An experienced consultant will conduct interviews with key IT personnel to understand the current environment, workflow and storage resource management policies to ensure our recommendations complement your unique business and end user needs.

What to Expect

An SGI storage expert will collect data through both offsite and onsite methods. The consultant will conduct an initial storage environment survey and perform data collection through the use of a non-intrusive command line utility. The resulting flat file of data will be analyzed and subsequent interviews will help to refine our findings and recommendations. Once the analysis is complete, our storage experts will develop a detailed report characterizing your organization's data usage patterns, and present both "quick win" recommendations to make the most of your existing storage assets as well as recommendations for more strategic growth planning.

Deliverables

- Detailed file analysis and characterization report, including
 - File distribution analysis
 - File access and modification profile
 - File ownership & attributes profile
- Data optimization, accessibility and performance analysis and improvement recommendations
- Storage resource management policy and tools recommendations
- Total cost of ownership and return on investment
- Long-term storage growth and protection recommendations



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