INFRASTRUCTURE DATA ANALYSIS

Stop storing invalid data on expensive disk subsystems

Are you already using SAN-based storage? Have you implemented storage and server virtualization? Do you leverage thin provisioning and auto/easy/dynamic tiering and have a tiered storage architecture, but still need to reduce cost and improve performance?

These are effective technologies to store the data placed on these storage solutions, but what if 30%, 50% or even 80% of that data is invalid? Duplicate, stale, orphaned and unauthorized data make up a large portion of the records stored on the equipment. Shouldn’t stored data be valid?

Move less important data to lower storage tiers, define retention policies and save money

Even for valid data, does it belong on tier 1 storage when it will generally never be accessed again? Consider that each application has data that needs to be placed on the proper storage tier to address a set of requirements.

We know what you are thinking. Data is not in your sphere of influence. You store it for the business, and what they place in storage is not something you can control. This might be true, but your CTO or CIO cares about what is being stored because it is likely that a majority of their budget is being used for storage capacity. They also know that the data contains information that is critical to sales, accounting, HR, legal and marketing. Storing the right data is critical. Storing the wrong data can impact profitability.

The Mainline Infrastructure Data Analysis service works with your organization to identify allocated storage to be cleaned up, invalid data to be disposed of and where valid data should be placed on your current or future storage infrastructure. For clients interested in defining storage architecture based on data requirements, this service will also profile data by data usage and performance, allowing you to provide the right technology answer for your critical high-performance data to reside on flash or tier 1 disk, and your inactive data to be archived to tape or to the cloud.

We will bring the tool

Most clients either don’t have a storage resource reporting tool that can see down to the file level like TPC for Data from IBM or File Level Reporter from EMC. We will bring our cloud-based, agentless tool to you as part of the assessment. You simply need to provide a Virtual Machine. Metadata about the data characteristics (not the actual data itself) will be gathered over a week or so, depending on the kinds of data we need to gather. We will then produce a concise presentation describing the actionable findings.

Deliverables include...

- Total storage capacity
- Opportunities to clean up allocated and unallocated storage
- Total raw data in GBs
- Opportunities to clean up data based on duplicate, stale and orphaned data
- Detailed reports and data paths for application teams to clean up
- Servers grouped by application with data characteristics per server
- Data placement and retention policies per tier recommendations, validated with our customers
- High-performance flash to high-capacity, low-cost archive platforms are recommended to rightsize your important business data (valid data)

Service Features

- Provides a current snapshot of your data placement as a starting point for the transformation process
- Identifies potential cost savings and areas that can benefit from higher-capacity storage tiers
- Includes a cost savings roadmap that contains a return on investment plan and payback timeline
- Gives you a clear roadmap for a transition to Mainline Storage Services or a company-led data migration

Service Benefits

- Conservatively identify 40% and as much as 80% of the data you are storing today as invalid
- Save more of tier 1 disk by optimizing your data storage placement
- Improve the performance, availability and security of critical data with high-performance storage tiers
- Plan for an upcoming data placement migration with a data placement roadmap
- Associate your data workload with the right storage tier, including flash and cloud storage
- Decrease your environmental footprint with high-capacity, low-power storage tiers

Part of a Generally Accepted Storage Strategy

Let us help you define your storage and backup strategy and align the business value of your information with an appropriate and cost-effective storage infrastructure.
Infrastructure Data Analysis is part of Mainline’s larger storage assessment methodology

Mainline’s Storage Assessment methodology consists of ten service areas that can be delivered as a whole to exploit the inherent synergy, or they can be delivered as stand-alone services, depending on where you are in the storage transformation journey.

Infrastructure Data Analysis provides additional value when delivered with the following services within the methodology...

- **Enterprise Storage Assessment** with a defined storage strategy reduces up-front data gathering and time spent defining a target environment, and provides excellent content in the prioritization of identified gaps. Also see service components synergistic with Enterprise Storage Assessment.

- **Infrastructure Application Landscaping** is for most a missing part of the storage strategy - to work closely with application teams to specifically address their wants and needs.

- **Infrastructure Data Analysis** provides an objective measure of the needs of applications through the analysis of metadata, offering a starting point for application landscaping.

**Next Steps:**
Contact your Account Executive, or you can reach us at StorageServices@mainline.com.
For more information on our storage services, go to http://mainline.com/storage-transformation.