

WORKPLACE SAFETY & INSURANCE BOARD

Storage Strategy Aids Injured Workers

WHAT CAN AN ORGANIZATION DO TO AVOID BEING OVERWHELMED BY DOCUMENTATION? AN ONTARIO

regulatory body, which deals every year with a vast mountain of documents, has found a way to manage them by implementing an information lifecycle management strategy – and has saved money, too.

Administering almost 84 million claim documents annually, Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) provides insurance for injuries and illnesses incurred in the workplaces covered under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act.

The WSIB is experiencing growth of 55 per cent a year in the amount of business data that it needs to retain. The resulting growth in computer storage required for all this data was compounding some challenges that the WSIB was already having with the capacity of its legacy storage environment.

The WSIB created a new storage strategy based on Information Lifecycle Management (ILM). Providing a best-prac-

tices framework for how data should be handled throughout its lifecycle – from creation to deletion – ILM includes a multi-tiered storage model in which less-critical and less-accessed data can be progressively moved to slower, less-expensive storage media, while current, business-critical data is kept readily available on high-performance disk storage.

Key suppliers for the new storage system were CA, which provided software instrumental for asset and capacity planning, and FlexTty, the solution architects and partners in the planning and implementation of the strategy.

Following the ILM framework, the WSIB established a five-tier storage model. The more expensive Tier 1 high-performance disk is reserved for mission-critical production data, including current compensation claims information.

The Tier 2 storage array, which handles user data and essential business applications, is 50 to 60 per cent

less expensive. Tier 3, based on even cheaper, but slower, disks, is used for system images, backups and snapshots of production databases.

Tier 4, also based on disk storage technology, is considered an online enterprise archive for all other storage tiers. The final stage, Tier 5, consists of offline tape for the backups done daily on Tiers 1, 2 and 3.

Through this multi-tiered approach to storage, and the use of new, more cost-effective storage technologies, the WSIB has reduced its yearly storage expenditures to \$1.7 million from \$3.3. During the two years since the WSIB implemented its new strategy, storage capacity has grown by 300 per cent.

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