APTARE Provides File-Level Visibility into Unstructured Data Across the Organization

KEY CHALLENGES

- Unstructured data growth approaching 200 percent annually
- Much of the data is redundant, expired or non mission-critical
- Manually identifying residual data requires enormous effort from the storage team
- Throwing storage at the problem is unsustainable

Manually identifying residual data takes enormous effort from the storage team, making it easy to justify "throwing storage" at the problem. APTARE automates the process of identifying storage that is not in compliance of storage policies, ensuring efficiency throughout the storage environment.

The data management explosion is showing no signs of improving. According to Gartner, the world created 1.8 ZBs in 2011[1], a growth rate of 9x over the past five years. That's zetabytes with a "Z" and 21 zeros. Surprisingly, it's not just databases that are expanding at an unsustainable rate. Unstructured data made up of files containing email, word processing documents, presentations and digital media is growing 200 percent annually—and much of that is redundant, expired and non mission-critical data. This residual data is then backed up, replicated and archived, exacerbating the problem even more.

Existing storage management solutions do little to solve the problem, and many end up causing more administrative overhead than they resolve. Manually identifying residual data, collecting capacity and usage information in a central database and analyzing and taking action requires enormous effort from the storage team, sapping time, staff and resources from other responsibilities. Yet, throwing more storage at the problem is not sustainable in the long term.

Real-Time and Historical Views into Unstructured Data

APTARE® File Analytics removes the barriers of profiling vast amounts of unstructured data, automatically monitoring storage capacity and usage in real time. The information is collected and stored in a secure and central database that can be queried and analyzed in real time. Administrators can set policies that are automatically monitored and enforced, enabling a proactive file storage strategy. Visibility into actual storage usage and the files that make up the organization's data gives administrators the information they need to clean up residual data and reclaim capacity for other, more mission-critical usages. APTARE File Analytics is non-disruptive and easy to deploy, can be scaled appropriately, includes a custom reporting engine and delivers fast, immediate ROI.

Easy and Non-Disruptive

The APTARE file analytics solution uses a temporary lightweight data collector to profile distributed file systems, taking just a few minutes to collect the required capacity and file information before exporting census data to a central database and deleting itself from the file server. Autonomous and vendor neutral, the data collector can profile virtually any hardware brand.

[1] Gartner. Gartner Data Center TCO Study. June 2012.

Scalable

File-level information for each profiled server is transmitted to a highly scalable, purpose-built database designed to hold billions of file-level details. This innovative approach overcomes the scalability challenges of storing massive amounts of information in a relational database. The database is fed into the APTARE database where other APTARE IT Analytics™ solutions have access, helping with other aspects of storage management from backups and replication to virtual storage and SAN management.

Custom Reports and Querying

Administrators can query the APTARE database to analyze the collected file-level information to identify "wasted" capacity across the storage environment. Users can also export the information as reports to other stakeholders. Most importantly, the information is updated constantly by the data collectors, providing both a snapshot and historical view of file analytics.

Fast, Immediate ROI

APTARE File Analytics provides administrators with actionable information that they can use to reclaim storage due to utilization inefficiencies at the volume level, out-of-date data, duplicate data, suspect file types and file ownership (or lack thereof). Capacity can be sorted by file type, size, growth and age. This complete analysis is conducted automatically in real time by APTARE, delivering fast, immediate ROI to the organization.

File Analytics Use Cases

The benefits of efficient and automatic file analytics can vary, but almost all result in reclaimed storage capacity, delayed buys and more efficient file storage policies. But don't take our word for it. A Fortune 100 financial institution recently deployed APTARE File Analytics and achieved the following ROI:

- Archived more than 4 TBs of files that were over five years old.
- Discovered a 1 TB directory of "non-corporate information" consisting of employees' personal video and audio files
- Identified 1.2 TBs of storage space that had been allocated to an email upgrade and forgotten
- Eliminated six redundant copies of a 200-gigabit marketing database
- Secured a series of files containing sensitive HR information on a public server
- Archived 500 GBs of application data that was no longer supported or used by the organization
- Many, many more instances of organizations reclaiming storage capacity through APTARE File Analytics

Contact APTARE today for more information about how you can reclaim storage capacity in your organization.

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