



CLOUD COMPUTING

Why You Shouldn't Freeclimb In The Cloud

It seems as if the increasing trend towards cloud computing spreads the misconception that data archiving has become obsolete. This fallacy is akin to climbing without a safety rope.

By *Winfried Althaus, KGS*

One thing is for certain: Using cloud solutions makes life easier. They are easy to implement, easy to use, and easy to scale. Whether from the administrator's or the user's point of view, cloud computing is a major driver of digital transformation. But as smart as modern cloud applications are, they generate and process important corporate data which must be reliably and securely archived. Although the data generated in the applications are usually stored by cloud providers, from a purely legal point of view, the responsibility for long-term archiving lies with the company.

A balancing act without backup

Companies should therefore not start climbing towards the cloud without putting on a safety rope first. A backup system in this case means implementing a cloud-enabled archiving solution, because thorough archiving is the insurance for data of every company.

While traditional insurances pay for the consequences and costs in the event of damage, the protective mechanism of an archiving solution sets in earlier and more broadly. It ensures that damage due to data loss, audit breaches, or other GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) violations do not occur in the first place.

Backbone of SAP data

This is of central importance from both a security and a legal perspective. After all, companies must ensure that their data is secured. Even if data are automatically stored in the cloud, decision-makers should introduce a backbone to play it safe.

Modern archiving solutions offer attractive options that are neither expensive nor complex. Especially when it comes to intelligent archiving concepts, they ensure lean archiving that is integrated in the corporate IT landscape and adapt towards the leading ERP systems.

SAP, for example, has a function that allows data that are no longer needed in SAP through online access to be removed from the SAP database via a mass data export. Anyone taking this step must ensure that these data remain analyzable even after archiving.

Currently, the data are exported via SAP Archive-Link and then archived. The technology of the future, however, are Content Management Interoperability Services (CMIS). These Content Management Interoperability Services are also the basis for general archiving of cloud data, the perhaps most famous example being ERP/ECC 6.0 successor S/4 Hana itself. Modern archiving must be able to speak several languages and, like archiving solution Tia from SAP partner KGS, for example, enable the switch from ArchiveLink to CMIS as just a flick of the wrist without having to switch to a new climbing route entirely.

A tentative outlook

Optimistically, around 80 percent of companies currently working with SAP will be using S/4 Hana in five years' time. It can also reasonably be assumed that the vast majority of companies will start relying on cloud solutions in that same time period. This automatically makes the CMIS interface the linchpin for documents and thus for archiving.

Anyone searching for the right grip now should focus on pure archiving solutions. They are a real alternative to volumetric, cost-intensive document management systems that often block the way of the ERP system rather than complementing it. The main reason: the gap in the lifecycle of documents and data usually only exists in archiving.

It is also important to remember that, in a cloud environment, the sense of security customers enjoy is not determined by the number of different ropes like in a puppet theater. It is determined by the reliability of your safety rope, by the strength and flexibility of the one backup.



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Cloud computing is the flexible and dynamic provision of IT resources, such as hardware or software, to external service providers via networks.

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