Veritas Enterprise Vault™ File System Archiving

Optimize storage and reduce cost through file lifecycle management

VERITAS™

Overview

As enterprise data grows on storage resources, it can quickly exhaust terabytes or more of expensive storage space. Storage spent on old or infrequently accessed data not only consumes precious file server resources, it costs time and money to manage and maintain. Veritas Enterprise Vault™ File System Archiving addresses storage cost and resource issues by providing an automated and integrated solution for archiving file server content to lower storage costs and manage file lifecycles.

Enterprise Vault File System Archiving lets you block unwanted or inappropriate content, free up space on the file server, reduce overall storage requirements, and keep all content fully searchable and instantly accessible to the end user or the wider organization. With an option to retain multiple versions of the same file or document, user-driven recovery of specific content can help significantly reduce administration overhead. With Enterprise Vault File System Archiving, your business will benefit from the following features:

- **Reporting and decision analysis**—Analysis of active and archived content on file servers, including duplicate, stale, and inactive files.

- **Content control**—Blocking of files with formats outside of corporate policy (such as MP3, PST, and JPEG) from being saved or archived.

- **Classification**—Deployment of a granular folder hierarchy, allowing user classification of files to archive.

- **Archiving**—Flexible, policy-controlled archiving to secondary storage based on file type, age, size, and other criteria.

- **Retention management**—Automatic expiration of files after the retention period has expired, enabling true file lifecycle management.

- **Discovery**—Powerful content based searching for end users and through Discovery Accelerator for legal, HR, or other wider type searches.
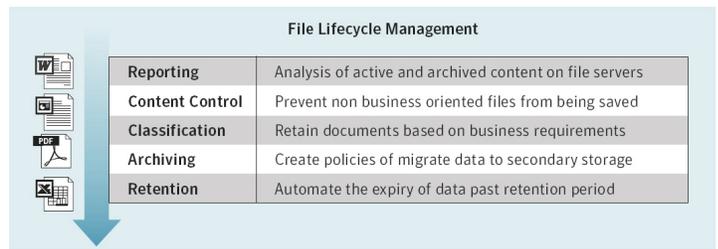

File Lifecycle Management

Reporting	Analysis of active and archived content on file servers
Content Control	Prevent non business oriented files from being saved
Classification	Retain documents based on business requirements
Archiving	Create policies of migrate data to secondary storage
Retention	Automate the expiry of data past retention period

Figure 1. File lifecycle management provides control of content from creation to deletion.

Enterprise Vault software is the industry-leading solution for content archiving. Developed as an extension to the Enterprise Vault archiving framework, Enterprise Vault File System Archiving lets you maintain business records from multiple file servers with a single solution.

Enabling out-of-the-box content management and archiving support for any application that generates and stores information in standard file formats, Enterprise Vault File System Archiving saves critical space on file servers by blocking unwanted content and seamlessly moves files to alternate storage devices without affecting the end user. Using policy-based settings, Enterprise Vault enables you to archive or even block or delete files by file type, age, or other criteria. Items are deduplicated, compressed, stored, and indexed centrally by Enterprise Vault software, and can be searched as well as retrieved transparently by users via optional place-holders. Through the unique versioning capability of Enterprise Vault, a record of change over time can be maintained, which may be crucial in compliance and discovery scenarios.

Detailed reporting and decision analysis

A critical building block for file lifecycle management is creating policies that govern storage usage and retention activities. To shape the right policies and make effective storage decisions, administrators need a comprehensive, in-depth understanding of their existing storage environment. Enterprise Vault provides detailed reports about storage utilization and consumption so that administrators can manage space effectively. The reporting engine generates a wealth of information about active data on the file server, as well as data already in the archive. Example of reports include:

- File groups summary
- Drive usage
- Unused files
- Storage summary
- Duplicate files summary

The storage and file-level reports also include recommendations for Enterprise Vault policy application, effectively providing a real-time ROI analysis on storage, so administrators can see the benefits of archiving.
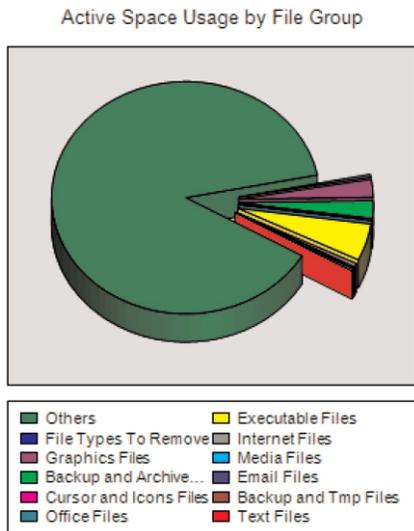

Figure 2. Detailed reports for greater visibility and decision analysis.

File server content control

Administrators can set up real-time filters that block inappropriate, nonbusiness file types such as graphics and MP3 audio files from being stored on the server. Enterprise Vault screens the files, even if unauthorized file types are disguised as a legitimate file type. Simply select the network object, the file types to restrict and you will keep servers free from unnecessary, nonbusiness files. If users attempt to write a blocked file type onto a server, they will receive a customized error message indicating that the file type does not adhere to corporate file policies and is prohibited. Optionally, administrators or their designees can be alerted to the policy violation.

Enterprise Vault goes beyond traditional Hierarchical Storage Management (HSM) applications by indexing and classifying data, making it available for discovery for legal purposes and to comply with external regulations. File archiving, the next logical step, is complementary to any storage resource management, tiered storage, or file life cycle management initiative.

Enterprise Vault File System Archiving components are deployed at the server level for easy, single-point management, and control. No software components are required to be rolled out to the user desktop. Enterprise Vault Search can be deployed to browse, act on, and restore archived content, not just from the file server but across any supported Enterprise Vault software content source (see Figure 3).
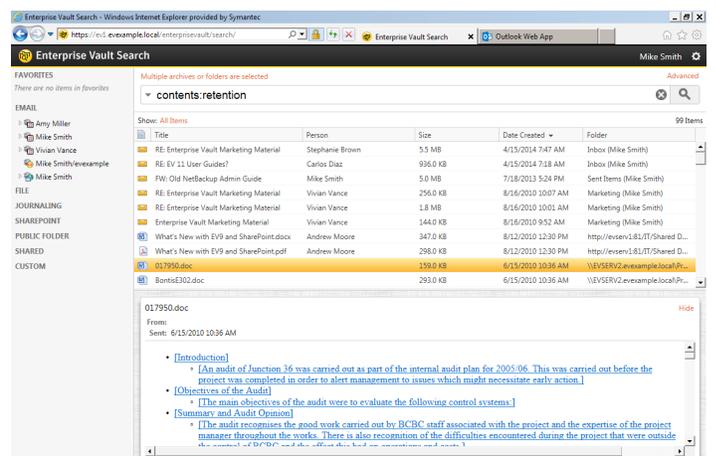

Figure 3. Enterprise Vault Search provides federated searching across all archived information in Enterprise Vault.

Automated file classification

For organizations that require a method of classifying the files created on the file system, Enterprise Vault File System Archiving allows the creation of a granular folder hierarchy with predefined retention policies for any file placed into the folder. The data retained in the folder is marked with a retention period defining the length of time the item should be kept to comply with company policy.

Extensive and transparent user search and retrieval

Enterprise Vault software archives items automatically, but users retain access to files transparently as archived files are replaced with shortcuts or placeholders on the frontline server. This enables users to instantly search and access archived content. Access permissions are synchronized automatically and Enterprise Vault supports Microsoft Windows® single sign-on security so archived files can only be searched and accessed by users with permissions to the original folders.

Depending on your chosen storage strategy, required resources can be dramatically reduced as Enterprise Vault software compresses file content and optionally, dependent on storage platform, enables single-instance storage. Additionally, Enterprise Vault software can optionally index archived files, making it simple to discover content at a later date. Classic HSM solutions provide none of these advantages.

Retention management

For a variety of reasons, IT organizations around the world are being mandated by legal and compliance groups to implement enterprise-wide policies on retention for corporate documents. Unstructured content like documents on a file server are not exempt from these requirements. Enterprise Vault can be used as a secure repository for files that need to be retained for defined periods of time for legal or regulatory reasons. Enterprise Vault retention folders help companies create a repeatable method of classifying and storing files to help meet corporate retention requirements and ensure consistent records management policies on file servers that may be out of the scope of content management systems. Enterprise Vault will also manage the automatic elimination of files only after the assigned retention period has expired enabling true file lifecycle management.

Discovery

Corporate requirements around the discovery of content are constantly evolving. The ability to react to a discovery request quickly and efficiently enables organizations to rapidly produce data and ultimately saves the organization significant budget. Enterprise Vault File System Archiving enables this rapid discovery of archived data. All file system data that is indexed within Enterprise vault is discoverable via the Enterprise Vault Discovery Accelerator which enables users to quickly target and pinpoint specific files pursuant to legal discovery, external requests, or internal investigation.

Veritas™ Data Insight Integration

Enterprise Vault File System Archiving now integrates with Veritas™ Data Insight to help provide comprehensive file governance. Data Insight can quickly identify file ownership, stale/unutilized content and content owned by departed users. Integration with File System Archiving enables users to archive content directly from Data Insight to help provide cost reduction (archive stale data, specific file types or content owned by departed users), compliance (apply retention based on file ownership) and eDiscovery (archived files touched by a custodian).

Key benefits of File System Archiving

- **Automated, integrated content archiving**—Reclaim space on file servers and apply smart compression and indexing to archived files.

- **Easy policy-driven archiving**—Based on policy such as last access time, age, type, size, or free space on volume.

- **User transparency**—Optionally leave shortcuts or placeholders behind in place of files.

- **Extended user search**—Embedded search technology makes searching content fast and easy through the new Enterprise Vault Search interface.

- **Reduce storage resources**—Block unwanted files or move existing content to a more cost-effective storage space to cut storage costs.

- **Reduce backup/recovery overheads**—Centralized archiving reduces the amount of production data to back up and restore in the event of a disaster.

- **Enable discovery of archived content**—Provide the ability to search, preserve, and review archived file system content across the organization.

- **Records management**—Maintain business records without user intrusion.

- **Self-service recovery**—Users can recover lost or deleted files without administrator intervention.

Supported platforms

Storage of the archive—The Enterprise Vault software archive can be stored on any common Internet file system (CIFS) complaint platform including Veritas™ FileStore N8300 and other platforms including EMC Centera®, NetApp® (filers or NearStore), or IBM System Storage™ DR550. The Enterprise Vault Software Compatibility list, which can be found here, details the extensive range of supported storage devices.

Transparent placeholders—Minimum user impact is achieved using the transparent placeholders. Placeholders are supported on Windows based file servers as well as NetApp filers and EMC® Celerra® network attached storage arrays. Items can be archived with or without placeholders; either way, archived files can be accessed using the search and retrieval technology embedded in Enterprise Vault.

More Information

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http://www.veritas.com

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Veritas Technologies Corporation enables organizations to harness the power of their information, with solutions designed to serve the world's largest and most complex heterogeneous environments. Veritas works with 86 percent of Fortune 500 companies today, improving data availability and revealing insights to drive competitive advantage.

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