

SAP Data Archiving Strategy Results in Reduced Database Size...



Armstrong World Industries

Armstrong Holdings, Inc., is the parent company of Armstrong World Industries, Inc., a global leader in the design and manufacture of floors, ceilings and cabinets. In 2004, Armstrong's net sales totaled more than \$3 billion. Founded in 1860 and based in Lancaster, PA, Armstrong has 42 plants in 12 countries and approximately 15,000 employees worldwide.

The Challenge

Armstrong deployed SAP in 1996 and the consequent high volume of data growth was a major concern for the SAP Program Management. The total database size in the production environment was approximately 2.1 TB with an average monthly growth of 34 GB. The company had decided against investing more funds on hardware and was primarily looking at data archiving to not only reduce the total database size, but to slow down the average monthly growth of their database before rolling out SAP to more sites globally. At the time the data archiving project was initiated, there were as many as 248 plants, 160 company codes, 23 purchase organizations, and 37 sales organizations.

In terms of the actual data volumes, there were approximately 16 million FI documents, 22 million material documents, 47 million sales documents, and 56 million PCA documents.

The Solution

Armstrong's business need was to implement an optimum Data Retention strategy to control Data Volume and reduce Storage Infrastructure costs.

- Identify the main archiving objects that were contributing to the total data volumes
- Help Armstrong to come up with a retention strategy for all the archiving objects
- Set up IXOS connectivity with SAP R/3 so that the archived files in SAP would be automatically stored on worm platters in IXOS
- Apply OSS notes to enhance the selection criteria of some archiving objects

The Solution (continued)

- Carry out volume testing in the quality environment to arrive at time estimates for archiving
- Implement the Archive Information System (AIS) for faster access to archived data
- Create an archiving calendar for on-going archiving by the production support team
- Created a Retention Strategy in line with Armstrong's business requirements with minimal impact on day-to-day operations
- Addressed Risk & Change Management aspects of archiving and compliance

The Benefits

- Archived around 430 GB of data from the production environment
- Reduced average monthly database growth from 34 GB to 11 GB
- Offset the need to invest in hardware due to the reduced database coupled with a lower monthly growth rate
- Improved performance of SAP transactions and background jobs because the impacted tables now contained substantially less data



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