

The volume and value of enterprise data continues to grow. The number of people needing access to that data for business applications, legal and compliance requirements or historical records management is also increasing. Managing this data and the supporting costs can give IT a screaming headache. Locking the majority of it away, in proprietary backup formats just compounds the problem. New technology is available that directly indexes backup data and allows the extraction of files and email without the use of the original backup software. By providing quick and easy access to data on tape, common causes for backup data migraines can be alleviated. This paper outlines how to quell the pounding caused by common backup data issues.

Headache 1: Data Restoration

Finding and restoring files and email requested by users.

The design spec two generations back, the email outlining the department reorg, the slide deck for the big client proposal. It's IT's job to find and restore these lost files when their business users request them. Users know IT backs everything up, and with retention policies limiting mailbox sizes and desktop storage space, they expect IT to be able to retrieve this type of data when required. Not such an easy task from the IT perspective. New technology allows IT to perform full-content searches of backup data without restoring it, without requiring the original backup software and without requiring access to the backup catalog. Directly index old tapes to find and extract what the boss is asking for. Headache gone.

Headache 2: eDiscovery

Supporting legal teams requiring data from historical backup tapes for litigation.

The once excessive burden associated with discovery of backup tape data has been lifted by new indexing technology – and the industry knows it. Court rulings and eDiscovery regulations have changed the way backup tape data is considered for discovery. Data locked away on the mountains of offsite tapes is now subject to search. IT owns these tapes, and will own the task when tape discovery becomes necessary. By implementing direct indexing technology, tight court-imposed time lines and massive amounts of data on tape become easier to handle. Headache gone.

Headache 3: Legacy Infrastructure

Maintaining legacy infrastructure to access data on tapes in old backup formats.

As a result of a merger, a change in vendors, or storage infrastructure consolidation, enterprise IT teams often have the challenge of maintaining multiple backup environments. This means double the infrastructure cost, the support costs and the headaches. New technology can directly index, search and extract backup data regardless of format, without needing the original backup software to restore it. This technology eliminated the need to maintain legacy backup infrastructures and provides access to historical tape data. Headache gone.

Headache 4: Endless Backups

Waiting through unreasonable backup windows.

There are only so many hours in a day. And with the growing importance of enterprise data, finding the time to fully backup all of it is causing headaches. By definition the backup process makes a copy of everything, over and over again. One complete copy is a good thing, even great if catastrophe strikes. But how many near exact copies of the whole organization's data are necessary? New technology allows IT to maximize the backup process and intelligently select only new or changed data to backup. This significantly reduces the volume of data identified for tape backup. By managing the backup process to capture the truly interesting data, tape volume will go down, backup times will reduce, and offsite storage costs will shrink. Headache gone.

Headache 5: Storage Optimization

Maximizing the value of the investment in storage resources.

The cost of storage is part of doing business, but using storage resources wisely is smart business. The profile of data on the primary storage is often a mystery, giving the IT manager tasked with storage assessment and optimization a migraine. Tapping into recent tape backups provides all the necessary information. Tape indexing technology produces reports that detail the duplicate data, outline user statistics such as volume and age of data, and find sensitive content (PII). All this by analyzing the content captured in a recent backup. Applying the intelligence gleaned through tape indexing allows storage to be assessed and optimized and the value of a storage investment to be maximized. Headache gone.

**Index Engines makes information locked away on historical backup tapes easily accessible, alleviating storage headaches.
Contact us to learn more - info@indexengines.com - www.indexengines.com**