Continuum – Lifecycle Management

Investing in technology can be like disappearing down a rabbit hole. It can be fraught especially with the array of options and alternatives, some of which are driven by the latest passing fad. So as not to succumb to a choice that leads down a blind alley you need to be able to make sound, informed choices. That is why you should be guided by the principals behind Continuum which aim to preserve data integrity over time and secure your digital corporate memory.

Open Systems

Avoid software that sets limits on interconnectivity for no good reason. Ensure that your information can be shared between all users and stakeholders in a manner you can control.

Don't rely on proprietary options especially if an open option is available. Similarly, where an underlying database is employed then this should be a recognised well supported technology such as a mainstream SQL product.

Transferable

It is as important to know your exit strategy as it is your implementation plans because in the event of going wrong then you are properly prepared.

Much of an exit plan is made easier if you have adopted the first principal of staying with mainstream technology. We have encountered far too many situations where we have had to assist in unplanned, unsupported transfers – none of which were pleasant experiences.

Widely Adopted

While you may have followed the first two principals then a third completes the set. If the option you choose is used widely then the availability of support should be both plentiful and varied.

Your costs for projects will be well signposted, and you avoid being at the mercy of single suppliers who can name their own price. It also brings you into a community where you can get references and advice more freely.

The technical detail

Open systems

Are a fundamental guarantee that you will have inter-connectivity and a documented system to manage your data and other content.

Open systems have well published interfaces and adhere to known standards to give users confidence in their operation. They are also likely to have wider contributions leading to a richer eco-system.

Mainstream

You may not be at the absolute leading edge of developments but in the data processing world it is a brave person that is.

Stay on a well-used path where others have been before and have built up a wealth of knowledge from which you can benefit. This is as true for any database technology that may underpin your system.

Current

Keeping up to date is crucial in a world where change is happening continually and is where your software is rendered obsolete by operating system or environmental changes.

Older software will be also susceptible to threats and attacks that will seek out vulnerabilities and weaknesses. Even modern software versions are susceptible so virus protection is a must.

Inter-connection

Many organisations use specialised systems for different aspects of their business. This frequently leads to data silos appearing and potential fragmentation.

Yet, you frequently need access to all information even when it crosses system boundaries. M-Files' Intelligent Metadata Layer enables access to many popular systems and enables you complete visibility of all relevant content.

Sustainable

Any significant investment you make is with an expectation that it will serve its purpose for a reasonable period or a least to fulfil a specific need.

Nobody likes surprises so it Is valuable to know the future relating to the technology you rely on daily, and, if necessary, to plan for alternatives. Open systems are a good guiding principal for longevity.

Transferable

Using mainstream systems should make it easier to move from one vendor or platform to another as they are less likely to lock you in like some proprietary software.

It is prudent when investing in new technology that you know your exit strategy as circumstances beyond your control may force your hand. We have all seen the effect of an external event fundamentally changing our work practices.

Intelligent Information *Management*

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