StorHouse for Enterprise Archiving

A low-cost solution for scalable, compliant, enterprise data management

Solution Advantages

Scalability – StorHouse for Enterprise Archiving can manage terabytes to petabytes of archival, persistent data for safe, secure, long-term storage and retrieval. It provides a file system interface (StorHouse/RFS) and a relational database component (StorHouse/RM) that respectively supports billions of application files and relational rows.

Survivability – StorHouse prevents technology obsolescence by accepting new storage devices and media types dynamically as they become available. Information on today's StorHouse systems will remain retrievable and maintainable with tomorrow's improved technology.

Accessibility – Efficient retrieval of requested data from any storage layer applies equally to a few large files or to billions of small files. No other solution can meet this requirement and maintain such high performance levels.

Affordability – By closely aligning the cost of storage with the value of data, StorHouse provides a low-cost solution that enables implementation of large projects previously considered cost-prohibitive.

A number of trends are driving IT managers to rethink their strategies for data archiving and preservation. These include Information Lifecycle Management (ILM), industry-based compliance regulations, and the need for long-term, persistent archives. Until now, organizations have typically addressed requirements for long-term data preservation, media compliance (WORM), or archiving with stand-alone, application-specific, point solutions – each requiring separate storage components and devices.

In contrast to these point solutions, FileTek's StorHouse® for Enterprise Archiving offers an expanded approach to data archiving by providing an automatically managed central hierarchy of storage devices accessible by many applications throughout the enterprise. Table 1 lists the unique benefits that distinguish the StorHouse approach from hierarchical storage management (HSM) products and file system-based archiving alternatives.

Table 1 – Unique StorHouse Benefits

Performance	Regardless of file size or number of rows, file system and SQL retrievals of requested data from any storage layer occur in seconds with no need to first restore entire files to disk.	
Scalability	**File System Data:** Archives can grow to billions of files with no performance degradation because StorHouse uses a unique relational method to store and index all file locator data (metadata about individual files).	**Relational Data:** Relational archives can grow to billions of rows and petabytes of data because of StorHouse's patented segmentation features that optimize retrievals from low-cost, removable media in automated libraries.
Standard access	**File System Data:** StorHouse provides file access through standard file system I/O.	**Relational Data:** StorHouse provides relational access with ANSI-standard SQL.
Reduced data ownership costs	StorHouse provides affordable, optimal storage of application data on a blended media hierarchy of tape, optical, and disk. Applications can choose the storage layer that best satisfies their retrieval needs.	
Built-in compliance support	Configurable parameters and compliant media types ensure retrievals satisfy industry-based retention rules and archive data remains accessible throughout its required lifespan.	
Data sharing across the enterprise	StorHouse promotes secure access to all archived data from mainframe, UNIX, and Windows platforms through NFS, NTFS, and CIFS file systems and transparent gateways to industry-leading vendor databases such as Oracle, DB2, SQL Server, and SAP BW.	
Simplified system administration	Storage management is completely automatic, including data migration between storage layers, backup, recovery, and replication.	
Support for ILM processes	StorHouse architecture and features complement ILM strategies for managing data optimally from creation and use through archive and deletion.	

Solution Components

StorHouse/SM, the StorHouse data and storage management software, provides integrated backup, recovery, replication, migration, and retention features. It supports a multi-level storage blend that includes all compliant media types (EMC Centera, NetApps SnapLock, and WORM optical/tape). Storage is scalable and configurable to support specific application needs.

StorHouse/RFS, the StorHouse NFS and NTFS file system interface, is a low-cost, easy-to-use solution for archiving and rapidly retrieving today's escalating volume of e-mail, voice mail, medical images, customer statements, word processing documents, and other digitized data in file format. It supports Windows, UNIX, and z/OS (mainframe) applications that use standard NTFS, CIFS, and/or NFS I/O.

StorHouse/RM, the StorHouse archival relational database software component, works in conjunction with StorHouse/SM to store, access, and manage terabytes to petabytes of relational data on StorHouse-controlled media. It is a read-only database that can function as an active archive or a primary database extension.

Comprehensive Storage Management

StorHouse has comprehensive storage and media management features that enable it to perpetuate highly scalable enterprise archives. These features include:

- Using a best-of-breed storage hierarchy that can include direct-attached RAID, NAS, SAN, content addressable storage (CAS), MAID, and erasable and WORM high-performance and high-capacity robotic tape
- Supporting ILM processes that closely align storage costs with the value of data. Each StorHouse system can be configured so that application data resides on the most cost-effective storage layer.
- Managing storage allocations transparently to insulate applications from the devices they use
- Accepting newer and more advanced device/media technology with ease and migrating existing data to them with no need for data conversions

A Single Archive for File and Relational Data

StorHouse supports a single enterprise archive for NFS, NTFS, and CIFS file system data and relational data. This unique archive can scale to billions of application files or relational rows and petabytes of storage. The StorHouse file system interface achieves scalability by using an embedded relational database to store and track file locator information. The StorHouse relational component achieves scalability with a patented table and index segmentation method that supports rapid access to relational data on removable media through standard SQL queries. Figure 1 illustrates the StorHouse dual approach to enterprise archiving.

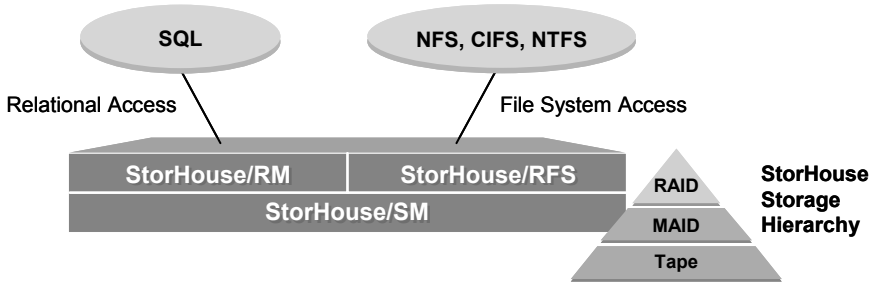

Figure 1 – StorHouse Architecture for Enterprise Archiving

Summary

StorHouse for Enterprise Archiving is an easy-to-use, scalable, highly accessible, and cost-effective archiving solution for file system and database applications. It supports compliance requirements as well as ILM processes and procedures for storing data affordably according to its changing value over time. StorHouse components provide the standard interfaces and all data, storage, and database management features. For more information, visit www.filetek.com or contact your FileTek account representative.

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