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Q&A

Building a Better Data Management Strategy

Step One: Design

State and local government IT teams are challenged to store and manage growing volumes of data in both on-premises systems and the cloud. This data must be readily accessible to help employees work efficiently and meet constituent expectations for responsive services. And it must be managed in a way that complies with myriad regulatory and privacy requirements.

When developing a game plan for data management, three steps are critical for success: design, manage and secure. In this Q&A, we take a closer look at the first step: design. Veritas Distinguished Engineer Doug Snyder discusses important factors to consider when designing data storage and management in the public sector.

Q: Why are design factors so important to properly and efficiently manage data?

More information sources and unstructured content mean it's more difficult to store data in a compliant way. These factors also make it difficult to access data to provide online services or fulfill public records requests.

IT teams need full visibility into all data systems that reside on premises, in the cloud or in hybrid environments. They need to make sure applications can access each system easily and securely. And they need comprehensive business continuity solutions that will be effective regardless of where data resides.

Q: How does Veritas help government agencies address data complexities?

Although many agencies are moving some of their data to the cloud, there is a tradeoff — cloud can reduce storage expenses substantially, but the hidden cost is more complicated data access and management.

Interoperability will be important as agencies continue to use existing systems and add new

on-premises systems and cloud services. We work with public sector customers to help them ensure data is stored in the right places with the right controls, and that it is platform and vendor neutral.

Veritas solutions provide global visibility, centralized management and mission-critical protection for data stored across diverse systems and environments.

Q: What important aspect of data storage design is often overlooked?

It doesn't always take a disaster to make data unavailable and halt business activity. IT teams often have a data backup and disaster recovery strategy, but they don't always plan for data access that enables business continuity. By prioritizing business areas and using automated functions wherever feasible, it's possible to create a continuity plan that balances data access with resource expense. To validate the effectiveness of the continuity plan, work with a partner who can give it a realistic test.

To learn more best practices on how to more effectively manage government data, download our handbook:
www.govtech.com/datamanagement

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