



Darryl Richardson, Senior Systems Engineer, Veritas

Q&A

Building a Better Data Management Strategy

Step Two: Manage

More data to manage, more regulations to meet and more choices for storage — these factors increase the need for strong data management. Yet how can a government IT team keep up as budgets continue to shrink?

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 second step: manage. Veritas Senior Systems Engineer Darryl Richardson discusses how government agencies can respond to data management and compliance challenges by applying strong governance practices.

Q: What can IT do to improve data management, governance and compliance?

To manage data effectively, government IT teams first need to understand what data they have and where it is stored. Second, they need systems that can easily adapt to evolving regulatory mandates for information privacy, as well as data access, retention schedules and deletion requirements. Most importantly, they need an active data governance strategy to better manage data in a way that maintains compliance while serving agency needs.

Q: Why is data governance so important?

A robust data governance strategy positions IT to comply with new regulations quickly and easily while also improving data management overall. Formal governance practices also help IT groups better understand the agency's data, improve how it is stored and accessed, and identify ways that data can better serve stakeholders.

Q: What is the Veritas approach to data governance?

Veritas solutions for data governance focus on three critical dimensions. First, data visibility tools provide insight into metadata information, true ownership, categorization and disposition for each data asset.

Second, long-term retention tools help IT identify the right choices for data storage and retention based on details about content, ownership and usage.

Finally, Veritas eDiscovery tools help government teams quickly respond to public records requests and court orders, as well as comply with legal hold and discovery requirements, on a repeatable and reportable basis.

Q: How can agencies create strong practices for data governance and management?

A strong data governance and management program is built upon the work of a governance committee and fueled by automated processes. The governance committee should have executive sponsorship and representatives from IT, legal, records management, human resources, and business or program groups within the agency. After the team has established core policies, IT should use technology to automate the critical tasks of data monitoring, auditing, management and policy enforcement.

This helps keep data under proper control, especially when budgets are tight. Additionally, automated data retention and deletion helps agencies prove compliance in a way that has stronger credibility than manual processes.

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

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