



# Clipay Increased Application Performance by 30% and Reduced Production Database Size by 50% by Using Informatica Database Archiving Solution

Diversified manufacturer keeps Oracle E-Business Suite Release 12 data growth under control

## FAST FACTS

### BUSINESS INITIATIVES

- Reduce management, software, and hardware costs associated with Oracle data
- Manage data growth arising from an expanding Oracle E-Business Suite deployment and business growth
- Optimize performance of the application infrastructure

### TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY

Implemented Informatica® Data Archive™ to keep control of data growth in the Oracle E-Business Suite R12 environment against a backdrop of business growth. Informatica database archiving solution, which is part of the Informatica Application ILM product family uses pre-built accelerators for the Oracle environment to ensure fast, easy deployment; while data integrity and data access are maintained after the data is archived.

“Like any building products company, the recession has had an impact on our business, requiring that cost reduction and efficiency improvement efforts be top priorities. The dramatic cost savings facilitated by the Informatica database archiving solution are bolstering Clipay’s competitive position and boosting profitability in a challenging economic climate.”

— A. Vinod, Vice President of Information Technology, Clipay Corporation

## Consider the Clipay Dilemma

Clipay was attempting to make the impossible possible. Faced with rapid data growth in its Oracle E-Business Suite Release 12 environment, Clipay, a global leader in specialty plastic film manufacturing and the country’s largest manufacturer of residential garage doors, appeared to be aiming at two significant and challenging goals: keeping control of data growth and reducing the costs associated with data. However tough the challenge, action needed to be taken urgently. Data across the production, test, and development environments was growing by a total of 4.5 terabytes every year, and Clipay’s reliance on an on-demand model meant this level of growth was costing the business significantly more in additional storage and hardware costs. There were concerns regarding performance and how quickly the business was able to access data. Questions were also being asked about whether Clipay would be able to recover such a large amount of data in the event of a disaster.

## BENEFITS

- Payback within less than 1.5 years
- Experienced a 30% improvement in application performance
- Reduced total database size in production by 50% in three years.
- Bolstered the company's competitive position and boosted profitability in a challenging economic climate
- Ensured that the backup process comfortably completed within the backup window
- Maintained data integrity and data access after the data was archived
- Provided staff with seamless access to archived data from existing application interfaces
- Introduced flexibility to search and report on archived data
- Reduced number of tape backups and increased the volume of disk backups

## NUTS AND BOLTS

- Solution: Database archiving
- Product: Informatica Data Archive
- Sources: Oracle E-Business Suite R12, including General Ledger, Inventory, Bill of Materials, Order Management, Purchase Orders, and iStore

By standardizing on an Informatica® application and database archiving solution, which is part of the Informatica Application ILM product family, Clopay is cost-effectively managing data growth within the production, test, and development databases that make up its Oracle E-Business Suite R12 environment. Using pre-built application-aware accelerators for fast, easy deployment, Clopay is archiving multiple critical Oracle E-Business Suite modules, ranging from General Ledger, Inventory, and Bill of Materials, to Order Management, Purchase Orders, and the iStore internet sales channel. In the first year of use, Clopay reduced the size of its database volumes by 22%, from 27 terabytes to 21 terabytes, saving the company money in reduced storage, maintenance, and operational IT costs. In year 2, the solution is expected to reduce database size by 9 terabytes, equivalent to a 29% saving in storage. In year 3, Informatica database archiving is expected to save 12 terabytes of capacity, equivalent to a 33% storage saving and leading to even greater total IT efficiency savings. The production database size is maintained at 6 TB, reducing its volume by 50% in 3 years, from 12 TB to 6TB with archiving. This reduction in production database size has yielded the most savings in terms of primary storage and server costs, as well as database maintenance cost. Besides helping Clopay boost profitability in a challenging economic climate, the Informatica database archiving solution also ensures data integrity and data access from the same application interface is maintained after the data is archived. Clopay was able to achieve payback on their investment in the Informatica database archiving solution in the second year.

## Growing Oracle E-Business Suite Problem Taxes Oracle Luminary

A. Vinod knows a thing or two about Oracle. He's the Vice President of Information Technology at Clopay Corporation, a global leader in specialty plastic film manufacturing and the nation's largest manufacturer of residential garage doors. The company relies predominantly on the Oracle E-Business suite for its critical business applications. For the last 5 years, Vinod has also been a member of the Oracle On Demand Customer Advisory Board, which acts as a forum for communication and interaction among Oracle's most important On Demand customers.

Vinod's vast Oracle knowledge and expertise were recently put to the test when the Cincinnati-based company was faced with runaway growth in its Oracle E-Business Applications environment. The primary driver for this growth was the completion of the full implementation of the Oracle E-Business Suite across all Clopay divisions and locations, retaining historical data in the production database for over ten years.

This, combined with continued business growth and success, has resulted in an unprecedented influx of data, most notably in the Oracle E-Business environment, which supports functions from Clopay's manufacturing and distribution, to supply chain management and procurement. There had been concerns among Vinod's team regarding this database growth for many years. For example, until last year, the production environment was growing by almost 1.5 terabytes annually. However, the issue which tipped the balance was Clopay's deployment of Oracle E-Business Suite Release 12 (R12). As the business became more heavily dependent on the applications portfolio, the production database was growing by 1.5 terabytes annually. When the test and development copies of the database were taken into consideration, Clopay was looking at a total database growth rate of 4.5 terabytes every year.

## Curbing Runaway Storage Cost and Improving IT Productivity

Cost control was Clopay's major challenge. The company's Oracle E-Business Suite deployment is hosted via the Oracle On demand model. This outsourced solution helps Clopay reduce business risk and increase flexibility. However, as Vinod explains, it puts the cost associated with database growth into the spotlight. "Our database was growing at 4.5 terabytes every year, which meant we were paying significantly more every year in hosted storage costs. For this reason we were under intense pressure to reduce the total data storage residing in our production, test, and development databases."

According to Vinod, cost wasn't the only concern governing database growth. "On the one hand, we were worried about how long it would take to recover 10 terabytes of data in the event of a disaster, and whether it would all fit on the storage media we were using. On the other hand, database performance was starting to suffer. We were forced to spend more and more on performance tuning. We couldn't let the database size compromise staff efficiency. If our sales, marketing, and customer support teams were forced to work more slowly, their productivity and ultimately our competitiveness would be compromised."

"Informatica precisely understood our objectives, were highly professional, and were clearly very skilled in database archiving. During the sales cycle for the data archiving solution, Informatica executed an in-depth data growth forecast, highlighting the sources of growth and formulating a practical approach to our challenges. Although we briefly looked at other solutions for this database archiving implementation, it was the quality of the Informatica management and IT staff that made the decision for us," says Ram Yempati, Oracle Applications Manager in Vinod's team.

## Informatica Database Archiving Cost-Effectively Manages Data Growth

Clopay has now standardized on an Informatica database archiving solution to cost-effectively manage data growth within the production, test, and development databases that make up its Oracle E-Business Suite R12 environment. Taking advantage of pre-built accelerators for the Oracle environment to rapidly deploy a solution, Vinod's team now identify and move inactive master, reference, and transactional data to another database. This data comprises multiple critical Oracle E-Business Suite modules used by the company in its building and plastic products businesses, ranging from General Ledger, Inventory, and Bill of Materials, to Order Management, Purchase Orders, and the iStore internet sales channel. This has the effect of reducing the size of Clopay's database instances and reducing the hosted storage costs. Moreover, by archiving the older data within the applications and streamlining information lifecycle management, the backup process comfortably fits within the backup window.

Crucially, data integrity and data access are maintained after the data is archived. Clopay's staff has seamless access to the archived data in database instances from existing application interfaces; they can choose to restore either an entire archive or selected business entities and they have the flexibility to search and report on the archived data. "Users are very protective of their data and are very reticent about purging it and moving it to an archive. This Informatica database archiving solution has been extremely popular with the business users because they can view and retrieve the data any time they want to," says Vinod.

In the first year of use, this Informatica database archiving solution has reduced the size of the production, test, and development environments by 6 terabytes, from 27 terabytes to 21 TB. In year two, the Informatica database archiving solution is expected to reduce database size by 9 terabytes, which is equivalent to 29% storage savings. Year 3 storage gains will total 12 terabytes, equivalent to 33% storage savings. The 50% reduction in production database size is a very significant cost savings, since the production instance is provisioned with high end primary storage and server hardware. Reduction in production data volumes also means less IT staff time required to perform backups, performance tuning, recovery, and upgrades. This contributes directly to the bottom line, with total cost savings being derived from reduced storage and hardware costs, improved business efficiency, and increased application performance. "With the Informatica database archiving solution, Clopay was able to get a payback on our investment within a year and a half," Vinod explains. "Like any building products company, the recession has had an impact on our business, requiring that cost reduction and efficiency improvement efforts be top priorities. The dramatic cost savings facilitated by the Informatica database archiving solution are bolstering Clopay's competitive position and boosting profitability in a challenging economic climate."

Simultaneously, there has been a 15% improvement in the Oracle E-Business Suite performance. Once the last part of the data has been archived out and some tuning scripts in the database have been completed, performance improvement is expected to rise by as much as 30%, meaning users remain productive, selling to and servicing customers.

Vinod and his team have recently completed the archiving of an additional 1¾ terabytes of production data. This means that database growth is finally under control, with year-on-year production database growth not expected to exceed 100 gigabytes.

## Backup and Recovery are Significantly Quicker and Easier

Any lingering concerns about meeting the backup window have evaporated as well. The reduced size of the database means backup and recovery are significantly quicker and easier, and Clopay has also been able to reduce the number of tape backups and increase the volume of disk backups. "We were doing one tape backup per night, but now we're down to just one tape backup per week. In addition, we're rotating three disk backups right now," says Ram.

Do the Oracle 'gurus' in Vinod's team have any closing advice to other organizations struggling to keep a cap on both data growth and costs? "My message to anyone thinking about purging data in a bid to reduce data growth and costs is, don't. Data archiving makes much more sense."

## LEARN MORE

Learn more about the Informatica Platform. Visit us at [www.informatica.com](http://www.informatica.com) or call +1 650-385-5000 (1-800-653-3871 in the U.S.).

## ABOUT INFORMATICA

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