Managing ever-growing volumes of enterprise data is a formidable challenge. At a time when IT budgets aren't keeping pace with increasing business demands, companies are turning to information lifecycle management (ILM) solutions to better align the business value of their data with an appropriate, cost-effective IT infrastructure to manage it.

Comprehensive test data management – the process of matching the best data to meet testing needs – is essential for effective ILM. To ensure successful application deployment, testing should involve multiple representative data sets replicated from actual production data and should employ best-practice tools to preserve the confidentiality of sensitive information. But according to a leading analyst firm, traditional testing processes need improvement: “Approximately two-thirds of organizations create full copies of primary application database data for development and user testing purposes when only a small subset of the data is typically necessary to complete these activities.”

By effectively selecting and replicating only limited subsets of data from production to test environments, SAP customers can reduce risk and infrastructure demands and achieve substantial benefits (see sidebar).

Learn More About the Full Benefits of ILM

ILM applied to test data is only one part of the big picture. ILM is about actively managing information across its entire life cycle, providing a single place to manage all projects, including data migration, test data management, archiving, and application retirement.


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1 ESG Research, 2007 Database Archiving Survey (December 2007).