

*Product Brief*

# HP and CommVault Add Security and Intelligence to Long Term Archives

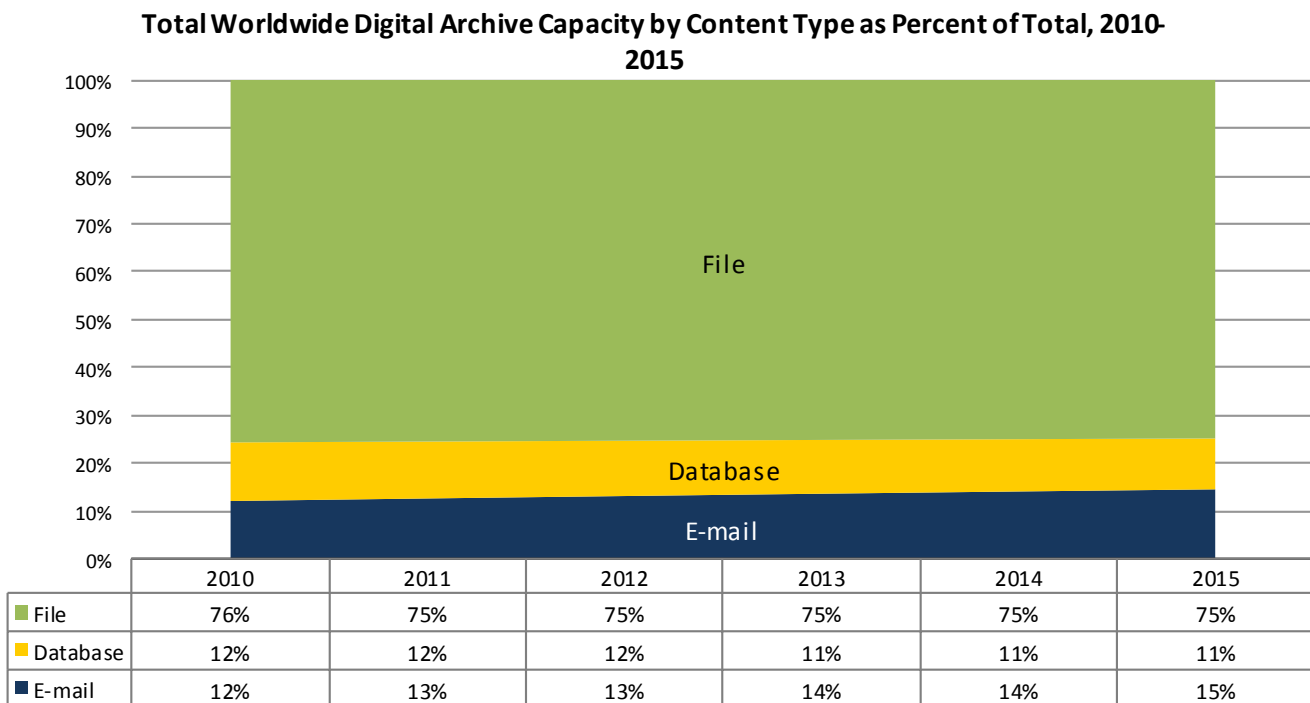
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**Abstract:** The [HP X9000](#) platform is a perpetual archive that helps protect information assets to meet future needs. The solution is also able to integrate with [CommVault Simpana](#) information management software. Together, the two products deliver a highly scalable, consolidated archiving solution that also offers IT and end-users a great deal of insight into and manageability over their file-based archival data.

## Overview

For years, IT has struggled to contain the fallout of the ongoing unstructured data volume explosion. But the challenges keep coming. Total worldwide archive capacity in the commercial and government sectors will increase from 33,217 petabytes in 2010 to an anticipated 302,995 petabytes in 2015—a 56% compound annual growth rate.<sup>1</sup> File data growth has outpaced database-related growth for some time (see Figure 1) and, as a result, many IT organizations are frantically looking for ways to store files efficiently, manage them simply, and access them quickly.

Figure 1. Total Worldwide Digital Archive Capacity, by Content Type as Percent of Total, 2010-2015



Source: Enterprise Strategy Group, 2010.

<sup>1</sup> Source: ESG Research Report, [Digital Archive Market Forecast: 2010 - 2015](#), June 2010.

Traditional archiving methods create silos of storage, which can limit file accessibility severely and leads to a multi-pronged problem. Legacy archiving processes are inflexible and complex to manage, and they often can't deliver needed information quickly (at least not without sparking a budget expenditure explosion to accompany that of file data).

IT managers are looking to their storage and software vendors for archiving solutions that will enable them to gain more control over their archives *and* help them make more effective use of the file data that those archives contain for applications such as eDiscovery requests, chain-of-custody concerns, or compliance with data retention regulations.

## **The HP X9000 Network Storage Systems**

Scalable archive platforms such as the HP X9000 family of NAS scale-out storage systems are helping IT organizations contain the fallout caused by the file data growth explosion. HP designed this family of systems for enterprise customers dealing with unstructured data "sprawl." It is a product that offers scalable performance for even the largest file workloads. In fact, X9000 archiving capacity is virtually unlimited, expanding up to (and actually beyond) a 16 PB configuration in a single global namespace that can include more than 1,000 nodes.

The X9000 is a component of the HP Converged Infrastructure strategy, an approach centered on solving the problems that come with rapidly growing (or already-massive) content stores, such as:

- Struggles in maintaining and improving service delivery
- Increasing management burdens and management complexities
- Growing energy and floor space needs in the data center

HP X9000 systems can scale out quickly while maintaining good performance levels and remaining cost efficient. Used as the cornerstone of a file archive, these systems consolidate unstructured data (for example, e-mail, SharePoint, multimedia, and more) from multiple sources into one massive repository.

On-the-fly storage load rebalancing evenly distributes files to eliminate hotspots, and the system is able to tier less active and inactive data to reduce storage OpEx outlays. The systems are architected to offer a modular, "pay-as-you-go" approach to accommodate storage expansion with near-linear performance over years or decades without disruptive downtime during upgrades.

## **Containing the Data Fallout While Adding Intelligence to Archiving**

CommVault Simpana is a unified information management platform that HP has qualified to operate with its HP X9000 scale-out NAS systems. Simpana software is especially well-regarded by end-users for its elegant and intelligent deduplication, archiving, and file restore capabilities. In particular, Simpana is very good at making information governance-related tasks much easier.

Essentially, the software works as a supplemental information management "brain" for the X9000. Among its tasks, Simpana analyzes and archives file data to:

- Eliminate duplicate files to reclaim disk space and lower access/recovery costs
- Support data tiering efforts
- Retain more logical data copies to support an organization's recovery time and recovery point objectives
- Retain mixed workload archive data at a granular level to improve e-discovery and regulatory compliance
- Ensure data is secure and immutable to meet regulatory compliance guidelines.

The combination of HP X9000's scale-out architecture and Simpana's intelligent archiving capabilities can lower the risks inherent in managing an enormous archive for years or possibly decades. The two products work (basically seamlessly) together to provide a write-once, read-many (WORM) environment with tamper-proof file retention even for very large archives. Because the Simpana software enhances IT's ability to classify data, it's easier to enforce policies that enhance safe data mining and retrieval.

The X9000 and Simpana operate in conjunction to combine all copies of indexed data into a single, searchable archive. ComVault's software, just like the HP platform it works with, is massively scalable.

Perhaps Simpana's biggest value-add lies in its ability to give an IT organization and its end-users added insight into an archive's contents via full content indexing. Added insight usually results in a more organized archive. That, in turn, helps IT enforce data retention policies more easily, which can ensure compliance with retention regulations and perhaps even improves the decision making capabilities of better-informed end-users.

The joint solution employs a single management interface to assist users in completing data analysis/e-discovery, policy management, and many other archiving-centric tasks. It's an intuitive interface that isn't difficult to learn. The software also has a web interface for legal workflow management and preservation. Built-in data validation ensures that write-protected data actually does remain unaltered, while the software's intuitive data-analytics features can support legal or HR users who want to conduct trend analyses and/or create reports without involving IT.

## **The Bigger Truth**

HP X9000 network storage systems are now tightly integrated with CommVault Simpana software to improve archival data placement and enable intelligent retrieval. Organizations using it will gain an archive that appears as a single virtual resource pool capable of growing massively while still retaining high-performance characteristics and offering effective indexing/search capabilities.

With regulatory requirements increasing, organizations are re-evaluating their strategies for protecting archive data. The trends are clear: users are keeping more inactive archival data online, on disk, and they are leaving it there for longer and longer time frames. And regardless of how large an archive grows, it still must be usable and easily auditable.

The HP X9000 platform provides the scalability and raw performance muscle while Simpana software lends simplicity and intelligence to archive-related operations—especially for litigation and regulatory audit tasks. It is a flexible and valuable solution well suited to deal with the file data explosion that nearly all organizations are now experiencing.