

Before
you buy
your
next
storage
device,
consider
this...

Top 10 Features to Look For in a Data Migration Solution

Effective and efficient data migration continues to be a necessity for all companies as shrinking budgets and exploding data growth increasingly force IT departments to do more with less.

“After 50 years of advancements in commercial IT, why is it that year after year we still are talking about the same tactical challenges? Data migration is still a huge problem that everyone has to contend with – an issue exacerbated by exponential data growth.”

—Steve Duplessie, Founder and Senior Analyst, Enterprise Strategy Group (ESG)

So, how can you continue to support the rapid growth of your unstructured data? Maximize storage utilization—and to do this you must migrate data.

The following lists the top 10 features to look for in a data migration solution. It is intended to be used as a handy reference to help you to find the best solution for your storage environment.

1 Affordable. A data migration solution should be reasonably priced with transparent cost of ownership – no hidden expenses. Seek an affordable solution that fits your budget and won't leave you strapped for short-term capital.

2 Easy to Implement. Look for a solution that installs with virtually a click of a button, thereby helping you to limit or eliminate the need for professional services, an expensive and time consuming commitment.

3 Online. You need a solution that allows data migration online—during business hours—not during maintenance windows. Online solutions minimize the impact of data migration to your company and free up time for you to dedicate to more business critical activity.

4 Virtualization-Enabled Client Transparency. Your solution should install and migrate data transparently to clients and should not require client reconfiguration or agents of any kind.

5 Automated. You need a data migration solution that will reduce your current workload and optimize storage resources by automating tedious manual processes. Look for a solution that allows you to determine the substance and schedule of your migration, runs automatically, preserves security attributes, yet is completely controlled by you.

6 Policy-based. Look for a policy-based data migration solution, with a minimal learning curve, that allows you to select data sources, destinations, and schedule automated runtime operations. Make sure the application is simple and provides clear confirmation of your choices.

7 Fast. You need a solution that will complete your data migration as quickly as your infrastructure allows, without increasing network congestion or latency for high priority services. Look for solutions that move data in parallel and that will scale to meet the demands of your project.

8 Out-of-Band. The ideal data migration tool stays out of the client-server data path, eliminating the added cost and latency of an in-band approach. Out-of-band solutions maintain direct access between clients and data, prevent network slowdown, and provide unlimited scalability. These solutions should extend the native capabilities of your current environment without negative impact to established processes like backup and recovery.

9 Secure. Data access must be controlled the same way before, during, and after migration. Make sure that access controls on data and shares are migrated and guaranteed by the solution.

10 Immediate and Quantifiable ROI. Your solution should give you an immediate return on your investment by enabling you to make better use of your current file servers and NAS devices. This will reduce operational and capital expenditures and help you to reclaim time and resources that can be devoted to more business critical activities.

Don't.

Instead, maximize asset utilization with virtually the click of a button.

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