Virtualization for test data management

No matter the industry, organizations are increasingly becoming more akin to software enterprises. They must collect data, analyze that data, and create new products and features faster than the competition. The drive for application developers to increase their production speed is a direct result of the higher sales revenue and market share that can result from such efforts. If an organization accelerates its application release cycle by 25 percent, that could mean the equivalent to one extra quarter per year to sell.

Significant automation is needed to accelerate application release cycles, and testing can take up a significant amount of time in those cycles. Testing needs to happen in test environments that closely replicate production environments, and the data must meet test cases. There are multiple challenges that come along with this:

Challenges in application development and release cycles

Speed
Typical complex development processes include multiple time consuming steps that delay progress before productive work can begin.

Quality
Product quality suffers when Development and QA engineers are unable to test without the proper data early in the development cycle.

Control
Once organizations devise a process to create production data set copies, operations teams struggle to include audit trails or Role-Based Access Controls (RBAC) that govern who has data access.

Cost
Typical development and test approaches create multiple physical production data set copies. The result is massive storage and staff expense, with increased infrastructure and operational overhead.

Privacy
Production data often contains personally identifiable information (PII) that must be protected to meet compliance regulations.

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Virtualization for Test Data Management

It is difficult to clone databases on-demand and can take up significant resources. There is also the risk of inappropriate data access. Database virtualization gives instant and simplified access to database copies. This accelerates development timelines, giving self-service database clone access.

In just minutes, IBM InfoSphere® Virtual Data Pipeline can deliver security-rich virtual copies of production databases while consuming no additional storage resources. IBM InfoSphere Virtual Data Pipeline technology decouples data from infrastructure, enabling dramatic improvements in business resiliency, agility, and access to the cloud. Virtual Data Pipeline replaces siloed data management applications with a radically simple, application centric, SLA driven approach that lets users capture data from production applications, manage it more economically, and use it when and where they need it.

Ready to modernize your application development practice?

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