

Information Lifecycle Management (ILM)

– Are you optimizing storage and services according to business value?



MANAGE INFORMATION ACCORDING TO BUSINESS VALUE

MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ON STORAGE PURCHASES

MANAGE DATA PRIVACY CHALLENGES

ENSURE COMPLIANCE TO POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

WHY ADDRESS ILM?

Organizations are increasingly feeling the pain of uncontrollable growth of data, files and information. Users are producing e-mails, files and semi-structured data materials to the degree where experts speak about a volume explosion.

This results in both increased operational costs on storage, and the risk on content, when considering the vast legislation on Information Management, particularly on financial and privacy information.

Through Information Lifecycle Management, organizations can take some critical steps in managing this information explosion and turn it into business value

HOW PLATON ADDRESSES ILM

Pain, Purpose And Mission

First, in developing and implementing an ILM strategy, you must formalize the reason for doing so. Platon offers to facilitate the process with activities such as initial expert discussions, workshops, and maturity survey.

Analyze And Understand

Securing a factual baseline analysis and forecast of the operational cost regarding the present infrastructure, is key for selecting and describing ILM projects with a high potential regarding cost savings or information improvement. Platon offers a large set of ILM analysis services complete with information, data and storage perspectives.

Classify And Agree

Key for any ILM implementation is classifying, and agreeing on the classification. Platon supports classification at 3 levels:

1. Information classification, focused on the content and the business requirements regarding how information is created, captured, enriched and distributed in a business process.
2. Data classification, focused on what data types or raw data, that can and cannot be stored, and where and where not to store it. Also, how long time it must be retained and if it needs to be deleted or blocked once it expires.
3. Storage classification, focused on defining service levels, recovery point objectives, recovery time objectives according to what value storage represents to the business.

PLATON

The company was founded in Denmark in 1999 by a small group of consultants with a great belief in a growing need in the market for Data Warehousing solutions. It grew organically, and are today the largest independent consulting firm in the Nordic Region within Information Management.



DESIGN AND PLAN

Once the classifications are in place, the process of converting this into official ILM policies as well as designing and selecting the appropriate infrastructure begins. Questions about how and where employees should store information, when and how to clean it up, and what information and data types are allowed, are examples of policies that should be defined. Platon can help you in this process to significantly optimize organizational adoption.

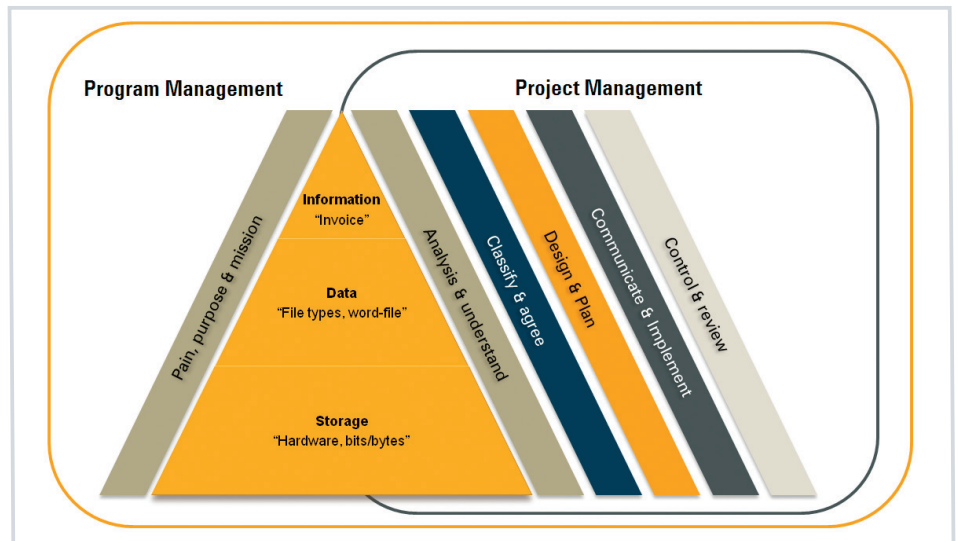
COMMUNICATE AND IMPLEMENT

In most cases the ILM policies affect the way the users as well as systems must handle information and data. Internal communication in order to implement the policies needs to be clear and is often a joint effort with the HR department.

Platon has the competencies in efficient communication around ILM and knowledge management issues between the different stakeholders such as users, management and the IT department.

CONTROL AND REVIEW

In order to sustain and adjust the ILM Strategy and associated policies, it is important to control and review the actual behavior of the end users as well as the IT systems according to the agreed classifications and policies.



At Platon we believe that the best way to do this is to implement a central reporting solution that can monitor and audit the classifications and policies to ensure compliance.

ILM ANALYSIS SERVICE (PLATON INSENSE™)

Platon has developed a standard ILM reporting solution that enables and supports an organization to control the implemented ILM strategy and associated policies. The various modules address various issues such as storage operation, IT security, data privacy and others. The reporting from Platon InSense™ can be customized to match the ILM policies and other specific clients' needs.

TIPS FOR A GOOD ILM STRATEGY

- **Start the ILM process when you still have storage capacity!**
- **Always treat data according to business value**
- **Create security for and observance of rules and regulation compliance**
- **Obtain collective responsibility**
- **Create measurable policies**

STAKEHOLDERS BUSINESS BENEFITS OF ILM

The executive management and finance department will benefit from an ILM strategy due to higher transparency on costs, ability to monitor agreed policies and external regulation compliance. The IT department is able to communicate cost issues to management and the organization, due to the value of data being aligned with the storage operational cost. For IT security, compliance with policies on i.e. file types can be monitored. HR will find it highly relevant to secure a higher level of privacy compliance which again ensures happy and satisfied employees. Finally, all employees should experience clearer communication on how to manage information and conduct themselves with the company's IT infrastructure.