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URL : http://www.itbusinessedge.com/cm/blogs/vizard/managing-data-in-the-cloud/?cs=40380

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New Challenges in Managing Data in the Cloud

One of the biggest challenges with cloud computing is not necessarily adopting it, but rather how to manage it. By definition, cloud computing means that data resides outside the IT organization. IT organizations need a set of tools that allow them to easily manage data residing on a cloud computing platform.

A good example of what needs to happen in terms of managing data in the cloud came in the form of a **recent alliance** between ZL Technologies, which develops archiving software, and i365, a cloud computing service that is a unit of Seagate.

By leveraging ZL Technologies's Unified Archive software, i365 is giving customers access to the tools they need to effectively integrate a cloud computing service into their overall data management strategy. Given **the rapid growth in the amount of data that needs to be managed in the enterprise**, it's pretty clear that enteprise organizations are going to have to start leveraging the economics of cloud computing services just to archive data. But once that data is in the cloud, they will also need a set of data management tools that will allow them to access that data on demand. To accomplish that, they need tools such as Unified Archive that can be deployed both on premise and in the cloud.

Key to that capability is a policy engine in Unified Archive that allows IT organizations to automatically determine where particular data should reside based on the attributes and categories assigned to that data, said Steve Chan, ZL Technologies vice president of business development.

Ultimately, there will be a number of cloud computing alliances similar to the one struck by ZL Technologies and i365. But only the solutions that can truly scale across both the enterprise and external cloud computing platforms will truly stand the test of time.

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