Reining in Unstructured Data

In his article "Reining in Unstructured Data" for Computer Technology Review, Ken Cheney talks about unstructured data in a virtualized world.

With the proliferation of NAS storage devices, diverse file servers running all sorts of apps (not just databases), and cloud-based services, the growth of unstructured data in businesses is unfettered.

According to Cheney, in the wild and wooly world of unstructured data it's important for companies to think out their data management and storage plans up front to ensure all of that info is handled correctly.

As more companies (and more smaller companies) jump on the virtualization bandwagon, things will only get more complicated when it comes to securing their unstructured data like the reams of Word, PowerPoint and PDF documents stuffed into their soon-to-be virtualized servers.

Of course, these companies want to reap the cost-savings associated with server virtualization, but fail to think through the security implications as they make this move.

If you need more proof that the need for good, secure management of storage in our ever-virtualizing world is only going to grow, you only have to look to IDC's latest numbers on the storage software market.

The total size of that market segment hit $3.4 billion this quarter, up 11.3% over the year-ago-quarter. Within the overall storage software category, data protection and recovery software sales accounted for more than one-third (34.2%) of the total.

Written for Evolving Solutions, an IT Consulting and Services company. This post is no longer on their blog.