Impact of Test Data

Security, risk and compliance

Losing data or access to data is a serious threat to the continuity and success of your company.

Quality

Having a good test data set ensures that there are significant savings and efficiency gains in quality assurance and testing.

Cost

For optimum testing, you need accurate and recent test data. Full system copies of Production are not cost-effective.

Speed and agility

The speed of business change is increasing, & these changes need to be fully tested in your Production system.

Coverage

The dilemma: How to test efficiently, and also achieve the highest test coverage possible?

Speed & agility

When looking at the speed aspect, the best practices recommended:

1. Make testing part of your process by shifting left.
2. Make sure you have test data available when project starts to avoid delays.
3. Copy only a subset of data for smaller agile systems.
4. Leverage a data copy solution like DSM Client Sync that speeds up the process of creating test data.
5. ‘Top up’ data with data on demand copied with DSM Object Sync.

Quality

When looking at the quality aspect, the best practices recommended:

1. Make testing part of your process by shifting left.
2. Create systems to bring up-to-date data into your testing environment with a solution such as Data Sync Manager.
3. Take the quality into consideration when discussing scrambling data.
4. Make sure the linkages in your data stay intact when data is copied so it still behaves in the same way to give you accurate results in your testing process.

Security, risk and compliance

When looking at the security aspect, the best practices recommended:

1. Copy data from the Production environment but anonymise data before it leaves the Production system.
2. Minimise the data footprint by creating subsets of data that are needed for testing.
3. Choose a robust solution like DSM Data Secure that offers an automated method to anonymise the data in your non-productive environment.

Costs

The best practices when it comes to reducing cost for testing data are:

1. Reduce your footprint: less data means less storage means less costs.
2. Improve your processes to include automation and reduce the amount of manual work and therefore reduce the cost.
3. Embrace the latest agile methodologies in CI/CD to get new functionality to the market faster.
4. The cost of non-compliance is too high so make sure you build your test environment with security and compliance at its score.

Coverage

Test data is turned into an enabler instead of an encumbrance by:

1. Defining the exact data needed for testing.
2. Defining critical business functionality.
3. Automating the way in which this data is provided into the test environment before testing.
4. Navigating complex datasets and avoiding time-consuming test data finding sessions.