



FILE ANALYSIS TOOL

Understanding Your Data

Understanding your business data is the first step to creating a comprehensive data storage strategy. This File Analysis Tool from Zycko allows you to gain a significant part of this understanding, and the first drive is **FREE***

THE FILE ANALYSIS TOOL WILL ALLOW YOU TO:

- > **Profile by file type e.g. .xls, .pdf, .doc**
- > Examine by modification date
 - This has direct implications for backup and recovery
- > **Analyse by accessed date and creation date**
 - **This can be used to determine the optimum storage media**
- > Classify files by owner & business department
- > **Locate duplicate files and analyse**

As a taster we will analyse a single drive for **FREE***. This will give a comprehensive insight to the functionality and deliverables of the tool, with the option to then analyse your complete storage infrastructure.

*minimum 1TB, maximum 3TB - limited availability

TO DISCUSS THIS TOOL IN MORE DETAIL...

please contact your Account Manager or Steve Crowhurst, UK Sales Manager on **T: +44(0)1285 868 511** or **E: steve.crowhurst@zycko.com**

T: +44(0) 1285 868 500 **E: sales_uk@zycko.com** **W: www.zycko.com**
Zycko Ltd, The Mallards, South Cerney, Cirencester, GL7 5TQ, UK

How understanding your data is the first step to managing it.

No matter how big the company or what sector it operates in, information is at the heart of every business. And with data volumes growing at a rate of 50-80% annually, according to the International Data Corporation, the ability to effectively manage and contain this information is now key to any organisation's success. It is therefore no wonder that business leaders are fast realising the need to adopt a structured and flexible approach to data management.

Storage options that you may consider post analysis:

- > Deduplication?
- > Virtualisation?
- > Compression?
- > Archiving?
- > Tiered Storage?
- > Consolidation?
- > Tape or Virtual Tape?

Why address data management now?

Pretty much every IT department is faced with the same two-pronged challenge: firstly to accommodate growing amounts of data that is retained for reference, such as, e-mail, presentations, designs, web content, photos and images. Secondly, organisations need to do this in compliance with regulations that govern how data volumes are managed, requiring established infrastructures to protect data from destruction, loss, or misuse.

The economic downturn means that IT spend, now more than ever, is under scrutiny and as such it is crucial to optimise IT investment and manage and use information efficiently.

Finding the right solution.

But developing a data management strategy is a process that is individual to the organisation. Unfortunately, there is no one-size-fits-all package - the only effective solution is a bespoke one that starts with getting to know your data.

How much do you know about your company's data?

Managing data starts with IT departments knowing what data they have and understanding the format it needs to adopt for the company to conduct its business efficiently and profitably. This means working with analysts to look at partnerships, supply chain, internal working, partners and set policy and should cover retained and used data, speed-of-access, backup and disk environment requirements.

This should all be assessed alongside costs – how much does your data cost you? For example, most organisations store significant amounts of irrelevant data. Employees are reluctant

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to delete personal files, meaning that servers are accommodating everything from holiday pictures to personal letters, scans and e-mails. To add to this, corporate anxiety leads organisations to keep data forever. It is therefore essential to figure out how much redundant data is languishing on your system.

Armed with this information, the company is ready to select a supplier who will work with them to tailor a solution that puts the best management technique to work.

Data management solutions.

Many storage vendors promise information life cycle management (ILM) or hierarchical storage management (HSM) - the movement of data through tiered storage based on usefulness, government compliance, access criteria, and security – which regulates how companies deal with different categories of information.

It is a policy-based approach to managing the flow of a system's data throughout its life cycle: from creation and initial storage to the time when it becomes obsolete and is deleted. ILM or HSM products automate the processes involved, typically organising data into separate tiers according to specified policies, and automating data migration from one tier to another based on those criteria. Data life cycle management is not a product, but a comprehensive approach to information management, involving procedures and practices as well as applications.

If you understand your organisation's data, and have conducted a comprehensive analysis, ILM should be a given, no matter which solution you choose – whether it's virtual tape, virtualisation and deduplication, or inline devices. All of these products have their own core advantages, and to get the most out of them requires a bespoke solution based on a real understanding of the company's data.

Thus, it is all the more important now, that IT managers gather appropriate information at the appropriate time, leveraging solutions that are not only cost effective, but also optimise ROI. A sound knowledge about the existing data is the basis upon which an effective data management solution can be built.

System Requirements:

- > The tool has to be used in a Windows Environment (currently).
- > The drive being analysed must have a drive letter.

Workflow:

- > Zycko will supply you with an executable file to run, with a set of basic instructions.
- > Following the screen prompts you will need to run the tool on your selected drive.
- > The resulting CSV file should then be uploaded to Zycko's FTP site.
- > Zycko will then supply a report utilising both statistical and graphical elements to display the results.
- > Following this analysis it is recommended that a meeting take place between yourselves and Zycko to discuss how the results can be utilised to develop your ongoing storage strategy.

Peace of mind:

Zycko want to ensure you are fully comfortable in the process of the tool, and in the security of your data.

Firstly, we are happy to sign an NDA before commencement. Secondly, we are very open about how the tool functions and how it evaluates your data – any questions you may have we are happy to answer.

Some basics on the tool highlight that you can operate the tool without opening any files, if you do not include file duplication evaluation. Even with the deduplication in operation no information from within files is stored, and ultimately the tool creates a CSV spreadsheet of information to evaluate. This spreadsheet can be opened and reviewed by you before Zycko compiles the report. This gives you an opportunity to see exactly what information is utilised.

