

CentralStor

Intelligent File Archiving for Records Management

CentralStor™ is a secure, long-term, electronic archiving system that provides fast retrieval and easy reuse of important files and documents. CentralStor allows a work group, department or entire enterprise to effectively organize, store, share, and protect valuable electronic assets across the network.

Captures File Assets

Once placed in CentralStor, files become a corporate resource that can be shared rather than remaining as part of a user's private collection. Users gain a mechanism to give important information to the company, thus relieving them of the responsibility for long-term storage and freeing disk space to use for current projects. The organization gains a means to "capture" important files and documents. The hierarchical organization of files, combined with searchable comment and key word fields, allow authorized users to easily locate and retrieve files even after extended periods of time.

Organizes Important Files

CentralStor's intelligence comes from its users and managers. Only they know which files are important for long-term retention and how the files should be categorized. In contrast, traditional system backups store snapshots of all files on the network without any method for organizing the data or identifying the important files. With CentralStor, users can easily find the current as well as older versions of documents.

Traditional backups are important in the short-term to recover from hardware failures or user error, but they are not appropriate for

long-term archiving. Typical problems include: Which computer was the file stored on? Which disk? Who can remember the state of the networked computers years ago? What was the file name? Who can find the right tape and restore it? These problems can be avoided by using CentralStor as the dedicated long-term storage solution.

Some file storage systems seek lower costs by simply migrating all files to lower cost media based on a file's age and the remaining disk storage capacity. Unfortunately, these file storage systems do not discriminate between important and unimportant files, do not consider the rate of retrieval desired, do not provide effective search capability, and require substantial procedural compliance and oversight by system administrators. Problems alleviated through the use of CentralStor.

Cost Savings

CentralStor can save your organization time and money:

- Savings from file reuse for similar projects
- Savings in staff time spent locating files through a conveniently accessible archive
- Reduction in hardware costs for additional disk capacity
- Savings in maintenance and backup costs because disk capacity is reduced
- Reduced dependence on expensive archive methods such as microfiche
- Reduced computer group support

Convenient and Secure

CentralStor appears to users as a very large disk drive, organized with a directory structure similar to a PC or Unix file system. Secure access controls are provided for the files stored in the system. Each directory has one or more users designated as "managers" who have complete control over the contents of the directory. Some directories may be made available for all users to read while other

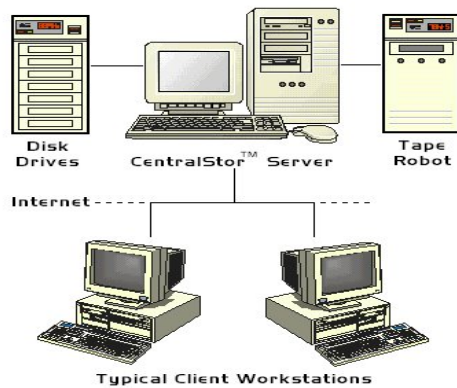


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directories might be limited to only a few users to protect confidential information. Each directory may have subdirectories to further organize the archive. Data “contributors” are allowed to add files, while other users may be allowed to read files, but not store new ones.

System Description

CentralStor is a client-server system with client programs available for Linux, UNIX, Windows, Macintosh and web browsers. A complete CentralStor solution includes a server computer, disk drives for on-line storage of frequently accessed files, one or more robotic tape (or optical media) drives for near line access, and the CentralStor software. CentralStor solutions are available for the work group, department, and enterprise levels.



Summary of Features

- **On, Near, and Offline Storage** - All files are written on removable media stored in automated libraries, with copies of recently accessed files buffered on disk. Extra copies of removable media can be stored off-site or in fireproof vaults.
- **DLT Support** - near line storage technology uses digital linear tape (DLT) which provides storage capacities of up to 80 gigabytes per tape. Tape access is fully automated using robotic mechanisms.
- **Distributed Caching** - clients automatically buffer files to provide faster access to frequently accessed files and reduce network traffic.
- **Version Tracking** - files are automatically assigned version numbers.
- **Security** - file access can be restricted based on user name, group membership, and/or client computer address.
- **Automatic Verification** - a file is validated upon each transfer to ensure reliability of data and media.
- **Replicated backup media** - information is automatically copied to redundant media which may be stored in a different location if desired.
- **Supports Multiple Media Types** - new storage technologies can easily be added into the CentralStor system as they become available.
- **Scriptable, GUI and web interfaces** - command line and graphical interfaces are provided; web access is configurable.
- **Expandability** - the capacity of the CentralStor system can be easily expanded as needed.
- **Search Capability** - file attributes such as keywords, file type, date-time, or contributing user can be searched.
- **Logging** - all file accesses are logged to ensure integrity.
- **Customization** - Customers can write “action” programs to trap “events” for special processing. For example, to maintain a separate access log, set up custom security features or process credit cards.



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