mft:ready

A new way to look at managed file transfer technology

In the digital economy, individuals, businesses, government agencies, devices and applications are creating data at a mind-boggling rate. In 2014, 3.5 zettabytes (3.5×10^{21} bytes) of unique data was created and in 2015, the average consumer will generate more data than the behemoth mainframes of the past. So, while mobile, cloud and the Internet of Things may be the white-hot topics of the day, managed file transfer (MFT) is the stealthy strategic asset ready to be transformed and unleashed in the era of digital business.

MFT functionality comes in many different forms and supports many different business processes. According to research firm Ovum, 71% of organizations are using at least one MFT solution, and 32% of business-critical processes involve file transfers. The question is, as it stands today, is your MFT approach helping or hindering innovation and growth?

What is "MFT Ready" and why is it important?

MFT Ready is more than a catch phrase. Similar to Root Cause Analysis in SixSigma, it is a new way to look at managed file transfer that helps identify the pain it causes and/or the value it provides to the business. To assess how MFT-ready your organization is, ask yourself a series of questions that follow this simple formula: **"Is my MFT approach ready for <situation>?"** For instance:

- "Is my MFT strategy ready for cloud and mobile?"
- "Is my MFT technology ready to track data movement at the level required to pass an audit?"
- "Is my MFT infrastructure ready to scale and evolve with business growth, or with volume fluctuations during the holiday buying season or fiscal closing?"
- "Is my MFT implementation ready to keep business moving even in the event of a natural disaster?"

Asking these kinds of MFT-ready questions will motivate you to dissect how a number of critical business situations and initiatives can and must be supported by the right file transfer technology, and whether your MFT approach is up to the task. Why is this important? Because an MFT-ready mindset will lead you to identify vulnerabilities in your current file transfer practices, and in doing so will illuminate the value the right MFT solution can drive for your digital business.

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1 General Keith Alexander, US Cyber Command, Gartner Security & Risk Conference, 2014

2 Transforming Managed File Transfer into Strategic Asset, Frost & Sullivan, May 2013

3 The Imperative for Effective Data Flow Governance in Response to Data Security, Risk Mitigation, and Compliance Requirements, Ovum, October 2014

Axway 5 Suite for MFT Consolidation, Integration and Governance

Axway 5 Suite for MFT provides everything you need to align business requirements with file-flow definitions and establish a central infrastructure for managing and securing the complete lifecycle for all file flows — across applications, with your partners and customers, to and from cloud and big data platforms, and between people using desktops and mobile devices. Axway has developed four strategic approaches — legacy replacement, shared service, digital MFT and hybrid MFT — to help you balance MFT functionality with business impacts by addressing (1) areas of risk due to security, scalability and reliability deficiencies, and (2) areas of opportunity to differentiate and accelerate file transfer-dependent processes.

With these approaches, you can be ready for any MFT scenario and make file transfer more strategic to the enterprise.

Legacy replacement — With Axway 5 Suite, you can eliminate the negative impacts of outdated file transfer technologies to improve operational efficiency and meet modern governance, risk management and compliance requirements. You can accelerate and manage movement of files, host files in secure mailboxes or folders, push data securely to trading partners in real time, and quickly meet new push or pull file-flow requirements with customized, multi-step file handling and routing.

Shared service — Strategic MFT needs to be ready to handle new forms of collaboration. Axway 5 Suite supports rationalization of file transfer technology with one scalable infrastructure for ultra-high-end shared service bureaus that can meet the demands of multiple business units and organizations. Departmental controls ensure you are ready for high-growth use cases — such as ad-hoc file sharing — by providing flexibility and autonomy for end users while enforcing corporate policies for security and compliance.

Digital MFT — MFT functionality needs to be more accessible across cloud, mobile and partner channels. With Axway 5 Suite, you can weave MFT capabilities into innovative digital applications and emerging use cases using full REST APIs.

Hybrid MFT — IT departments are increasingly looking to the cloud to reduce infrastructure costs and to gain immediate access to an exchange platform without having to build it, which means integrating new deployment models with existing functionality. Axway 5 Suite for MFT can be deployed in the cloud, on premise and in hybrid cloud/on-premise environments. File-transfer acceleration enables you to overcome varying network characteristics and meet SLAs for international and cloud transfers.

Ready to get MFT Ready?

In the digital economy, more than a third of all business-critical processes involve file transfers. This reality presents an opportunity to transform MFT into a powerful business enabler that reduces costs and risk, improves efficiency and agility, and opens the door to new mobile, cloud and big data initiatives.

For more information, visit www.axway.com

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