CONNECTWISE™

Key Strategies for Controlling Data Sprawl

Data sprawl is the uncontrolled surge of data across a business's systems, platforms, and storage locations, making it hard to manage and secure. Today, it poses significant challenges for businesses, and without proper management, it can lead to inefficiencies, security risks, and compliance issues.

Data Management Roadmap

1 Establish a Data Governance Framework

Implement a robust data governance framework that defines roles, responsibilities, policies, and procedures for managing data throughout its lifecycle. This ensures accountability and consistency in data management practices.

90% of businesses cite managing their unstructured data as a problem[2]

80% of an organization's data is unstructured[1]

2 Implement Data Classification

Classify data based on sensitivity, importance, and regulatory requirements to prioritize protection measures. This ensures compliance with relevant regulations.

3 Employee Training and Awareness

Provide comprehensive training and raise awareness among employees about data management best practices. This fosters a culture of data responsibility and security within the business.

4 Enforce Access Controls

Implement strict access controls to restrict data access based on user roles and responsibilities. This minimizes the risk of unauthorized access and data breaches.

90% of business-critical documents are shared outside the C-suite[1]

5 Conduct Scheduled Data Assessments

Perform quarterly assessments to monitor data usage and compliance with internal policies and external regulations. This practice allows for the proactive identification and resolution of data sprawl issues.

6 Have Data Protection in Place

Ensure you have data protection across your entire M365 tenant. Creating a strong backup plan for essential data reduces the impact of data loss and ensures fast recovery in the event of data breaches or disasters, keeping operations running smoothly.

43% of businesses use an average of 4-6 platforms to manage their data[3]

Checklist

This checklist provides steps to prevent data sprawl, enhance protection, and improve data management practices:

☐ **Data Governance Framework**
Establish a robust data governance framework to define roles and processes.

☐ **Data Inventory and Classification**
Regularly inventory and classify data based on sensitivity and importance.

☐ **User Awareness and Training**
Conduct regular training on data security and best practices.

☐ **Access Control and Permissions**
Enforce strict access controls to limit data access to authorized personnel.

☐ **Scheduled Data Assessments**
Perform quarterly assessments to identify vulnerabilities and gaps.

☐ **Have Data Protection in Place**
Ensure you have data protection across your entire Microsoft 365 tenant.

This checklist can be further tailored to meet specific organizational needs and requirements.

1 – Q1 2023 Data Risk Report, Concentric AI's – concentric.ai/pdf/concentric-data-risk-report/
2 – Data Goes Big, Forbes – forbes.com/sites/rkulkami/2019/03/03/big-data-goes-big
3 – The State of Data and What's Next, Starburts – https://www.starburst.io/info/the-2022-state-of-data-whats-next/

Controlling data sprawl requires a proactive and holistic approach to data management. By following the strategies outlined in this roadmap, businesses can effectively manage their data assets, mitigate risks, and achieve compliance objectives.

CONNECTWISE™ Cloud Backup™

Make every second count with the most complete, powerful and flexible data protection for Microsoft 365

Zero Data Gaps

Simple to Scale

Rapid Recovery

Learn more