Waste Management Company Cuts Costs & Secures Data with Classify360

Client: North America's Leading Provider of Environmental & Industrial Services
Industry: Waste Management, Chemical, Manufacturing, Government Agencies
Use Cases: Storage & Migration Optimization, Data Security & Risk Optimization, Business Optimization

Business Problem

A waste management company, North America's leading provider of environmental and industrial services, faced a growing challenge in managing its unstructured data estate. Rapid data expansion due to organic growth and acquisitions created inefficiencies, increased costs, and posed security risks. The company lacked a structured approach to identifying redundant, obsolete, or sensitive data, making it difficult to optimize storage, enhance security, and prepare data for AI-driven insights. Key concerns included:

- Identifying and eliminating redundant and outdated data
- Determining inactive data that could be archived or tiered to cost-effective storage
- Securing sensitive and orphaned data to reduce security vulnerabilities
- Ensuring data readiness for AI/ML modeling

Solution

Congruity360 implemented the Classify360 platform, deploying **Enterprise Insights, Actions, and Comply360** in a phased approach:

1. **Enterprise Insights Deployment**
    - Outlined file and folder taxonomy to inform data remediation strategy
    - Performed file-level scans to identify redundant and inactive data
    - Provided Storage Optimization and Risk Analysis dashboards for decision-making
2. **Governance Policy & Classification Implementation**
    - Defined governance policies based on Insights data

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- Developed and enforced data retention policies to minimize security risks
- Configured classification models for efficient data segmentation

3. **Execution & Ongoing Management**
    - Applied classification policies to automate data lifecycle management
    - Enabled continuous monitoring and reporting through dashboards
    - Provided ongoing optimization support

Congruity360's differentiator was its deep focus on unstructured data and prioritization of **Insights** to establish retention policies while driving cost savings and security improvements.

Outcome

By implementing Classify360, Waste Management Company achieved significant operational and financial benefits:

- **Storage Optimization & Cost Reduction:** Immediate cost savings through tiering, deletion, and migration of redundant, obsolete, and trivial (ROT) data.
- **Security & Risk Mitigation:** Reduced exposure to data breaches and ransomware by securing sensitive and orphaned data.
- **AI Readiness & Compliance:** Ensured structured, clean, and compliant data for AI/ML initiatives and regulatory adherence.

Financial Impact (Estimated Savings Over 3 Years)

- **Over $350,000 saved by eliminating redundant and outdated data, including $137,218 from deleting files older than 15 years and $214,061 from deleting files aged 10-14 years.**
- **An additional $67,694 saved by optimizing storage through intelligent tiering of 3.5TB of data to Azure Hot storage.**
- **Total estimated savings of $418,973 over three years, significantly reducing storage costs and improving data management efficiency.**

By leveraging Congruity360's expertise in unstructured data management, Waste Management Company now operates with greater efficiency, reduced costs, and improved data security—ensuring long-term sustainability and AI-driven innovation.

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