

How Spire Energy Controls Exponential Data Growth

A case study

As the fifth largest publicly traded natural gas company in the United States with over 3,500 employees and 1.7 million customers, Spire has many facets but one common thread - their energy. With file shares growing quickly and an Office 365 migration on the horizon, Spire knew they needed to put this same energy into reducing their data surface footprint and gain visibility into their data estate.

Information at Scale

Between data being brought in-house through acquisitions and general day-to-day growth of unstructured data - data that doesn't have a recognizable structure - Spire was struggling to find information easily. Unstructured data by its very nature is harder to control and secure than structured data because without a pattern, it's harder to search.

"Overall we lacked true visibility into the location of our information on a large scale," said Robert McKee, Records Manager at Spire.

Spire needed a solution which could help them to identify and remediate redundant, obsolete and trivial (ROT) data at scale, move unstructured data into new file plans and respond to e-Discovery requests in file shares and machines.

Following a successful pilot project involving stakeholders from multiple departments, Spire chose ActiveNav in part because they found the software easy to use with quick time-to-value.



At a glance

CHALLENGES

- Significant data growth through acquisitions
- Limited data visibility
- Difficulty finding information for e-Discovery requests
- Complex folder structure

BENEFITS

- Efficient file structure
- Actionable insights into their data estate
- Significant ROT identification and removal
- Quick access to the correct information

ABOUT

- Spire Inc
- Utilities
- St Louis, MO
- 3,500+ employees

Above and Beyond

While not a dedicated e-Discovery tool, the software has still made a big impact. Spire's legal team uses ActiveNav to identify, classify and tag information that contains criteria outlined in e-Discovery requests with a full audit trail. The ability to index a single machine, in addition to large file shares, has also helped Spire with its information security initiatives.

Using ActiveNav, Spire has removed over 180 GB of ROT data, organized their content repositories, and created a data map to give visibility into what data they have and where it lies in the organization and report on it to with integrated dashboards.

ActiveNav and Spire remain strong partners as Spire continues executing their long-term data governance strategy. With a software solution that meets the needs of the growing organization, Spire is energetic about their future data initiatives.



RESULTS



Indexed 100's of GB of data



Removed over 127,000 files of ROT

Actionable Insights

By providing visibility into Spire's unstructured environments, they are able to control their data growth and reduce their data surface footprint. This also helps ensure regulatory compliance as information is only accessed by those who need it.

Data Minimization

After indexing over 3 terabytes of unstructured data, Spire was able to identify over 180 gigabytes of redundant, obsolete and trivial data, allowing the organization to reduce operational risk and storage costs.

Streamlined e-Discovery

By discovering, identifying, and tagging potentially relevant data with a full audit trail, Spire uses automated workflows to pre-cull data at time of collection, saving time and resources.

Holistic Data Governance Program

By working cross-departments Spire has built holistic processes for handling and storing unstructured data throughout its entire lifecycle.

"Our work with ActiveNav has been very successful. The services and support teams have been incredibly helpful and responsive with any questions we have."

Our legal team has also found the software particularly useful with various e-Discovery functions. We are extremely please overall."

**- Robert McKee,
Records Manager**

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