

Data consolidation for cost savings: Are you prepared?



Most construction IT estates are carrying long-term data in systems that were never designed for it. The cost is hidden – until it isn't. This checklist surfaces the questions your peers are already asking.

The hidden cost nobody budgets for. As project portfolios grow, so does the volume of long-term records trapped across SharePoint, legacy ECM platforms, file shares, and decommissioned systems. Every year you delay consolidation, you're paying primary storage rates for data that should cost a fraction – and accumulating compliance and legal risk that compounds just as fast.

1 Do you know what long-term project data you're actually paying to store?

- Have you mapped where closed project records – drawings, BIM files, CAD, video surveys – are currently held across your estate?
- Do you know how much of your SharePoint and primary storage cost is attributable to data you're obligated to retain, not actively using?
- Can you identify systems still running today purely because long-term records have nowhere else to go?

2 Are your storage costs growing with every project you close?

- Is SharePoint storage being consumed by inactive project records at a rate that will exceed budget within 12–24 months?
- Are you paying licence or maintenance fees on platforms that exist primarily to hold legacy data you can't delete?
- When a business unit or project site closes, do the records it generated become a cost that no one owns?

3 Can you actually decommission the platforms you want to retire?

- Are legacy ECM systems, file servers, or backup platforms still live because migration to a safe long-term home has stalled?
- If you decommissioned a platform today, could you guarantee the records it holds remain readable, governed, and legally producible in 15 years?
- Do you have a supported migration path for proprietary file formats – legacy CAD, BIM models, video formats – that will become unreadable as software evolves?

4 Is ungoverned long-term data blocking your AI and M365 investments?

Do you have visibility and governance over which long-term records AI tools such as Microsoft Copilot can access – or is that undefined?

Are fragmented archives across business units preventing a single, governed search model for historical project data?

Is ungoverned retention data creating legal defensibility gaps that your legal or risk teams have flagged as unacceptable?

5 Are your retention policies being enforced, or just documented?

Can you demonstrate that records are being retained – and disposed of – in line with client-specific and regulatory obligations, with an auditable trail?

Are retention labels and policies applied consistently across all project records, regardless of which business unit created them?

If challenged in litigation or audit today, could you produce project records in a legally defensible, unaltered state – with full provenance?

6 Can your teams actually find and use long-term records when they need them?

Does retrieving a historical project record currently require navigating multiple disconnected systems, raising IT requests, or accepting that the record may simply not be found?

Are business users – project managers, legal, finance – able to search and retrieve archived records without leaving the tools they already use?

Is the cost and time of manual retrieval across siloed systems being absorbed silently across the business?

If you answered 'no' to more than two questions, your archive is costing you more than it should

[Book a discovery call](#)

Preservica helps IT teams in construction consolidate long-term data, cut storage costs, decommission legacy platforms, and stay defensible across decades – without disrupting how teams work.

CUT STORAGE COSTS

DECOMMISSION PLATFORMS

STAY DEFENSIBLE