

What insights are hiding within your company's widely distributed data?

AI-driven breakthroughs require a fundamental shift in how you prepare, store, manage, and access data across your systems. Here's how to do it right.

Your data has stories to tell, with insights that could lead to breakthroughs, smarter decisions, and innovative strategies. But too often, those stories are scattered across departments, systems, and locations—and that dilemma creates more than an inconvenience.

Distributed data can block innovation and slow down the pace of progress. It makes it impossible to know what you have, harder to access the information you need, harder still to trust that it's accurate, and nearly impossible to extract its full value. Without addressing these barriers, you risk losing the insights that could drive innovation and growth.

To understand the impact, let's look at why improperly managed distributed data holds back companies and what it takes to overcome the issue.

Why distributed data holds you back

Dealing with distributed data isn't just a challenge of technology; it's a challenge of context. When data is stored in different systems or spread across the edge, cloud, and on-premises environments, its full potential is lost. You can't see it all in one place. You can't always access it quickly. And often, by the time you do access it, it's no longer useful.

Imagine a manufacturing company with operations in several countries. Each site generates volumes of information from sensors, cameras, and machines, yet that data is often stored locally. A team in one region might have no way to know what insights are being collected elsewhere. Worse, even if they manage to access it, they'll likely find duplicates, outdated information, or inconsistent formats—all of which take time and effort to clean up.

According to Alaric Thomas, Product Lead for HPE Data Fabric Software, this scenario is a common frustration. "There are tons of data spread out everywhere, but the people who need it don't have access," he says. "It's a messy, hierarchical process that slows down everything."

And slow isn't good enough in a world that runs on AI. You need your data to be ready—accessible, organized, and consistent—to power the tools that help you innovate and compete.

Building an AI-ready data foundation

If distributed data in a hybrid enterprise is the problem, a unified approach to dealing with that data is the solution. Creating an AI-ready foundation transforms scattered information into a single environment where it's easier to access, prepare, and use.

One way to achieve this is by adopting a data fabric—a technology that connects data from multiple locations without physically moving it. "A data fabric lets you access data no matter where it's stored," Thomas explains. "Think of it as a global directory: You could be in New York but click on a file in Tokyo as if it's local."

Such connectivity is a game changer. A data fabric simplifies the process of accessing and managing data across edge, cloud, and on-premises environments. By eliminating the need to move or duplicate files, the technology reduces duplication and associated problems, as well as potentially saving time and cutting costs.

But access is only part of the equation. Automating data pipelines—streamlining the steps from raw information to actionable insights—is equally important. With automation, companies can spend less time preparing data and more time utilizing it. This not only speeds up AI projects but also improves their quality by reducing human error.

Thomas emphasizes how important such a shift is for AI-driven businesses. "The biggest complaint from data scientists is that the data isn't coming fast enough or at a high enough quality," he says. "Automating these processes means they can focus on building models instead of chasing information."

By tackling these challenges head-on, you can begin to access and utilize the insights buried in your data. But what does that look like in practice? That's where the real opportunity lies.

Discovering insights hidden in your data

When your data is unified and AI-ready, the possibilities expand dramatically. Suddenly, you're not just collecting information; you're turning it into something actionable.

For starters, an AI-ready data foundation speeds decision-making. Instead of spending weeks pulling information together, teams can access it instantly, even when it's stored in different formats or locations. "With a data fabric, you don't need to copy data from system to system," says Thomas. "It's all there, ready to use, whether it's on-premises, in the cloud, or at the edge."

Consider the impact this has on collaboration. When everyone—data engineers, analysts, and scientists—works from the same trusted data source, it becomes easier to align on goals and produce results. Teams can focus on analysis and innovation, rather than wasting time searching for and cleaning up messy datasets.

But the benefits don't stop at speed and collaboration. Unified data also leads to better AI models, thanks to data that is more consistent, up-to-date, and reliable. This reduces the risk of biased or inaccurate predictions, which can be costly in high-stakes situations.

Scaling for AI workloads

As you increasingly lean on AI, the demands on your data systems will only grow. Training machine learning models requires immense amounts of information. And as your projects scale, so does the need for high performance infrastructure.

This is where a solution like HPE Data Fabric Software comes into play. It provides the scalability and performance required for data-intensive workloads without the headaches of traditional systems. Whether you're working with structured or unstructured data, these tools are designed to handle heavy loads.

Scalability isn't just about handling Big Data; it's about doing it efficiently. Traditional systems often struggle to scale both storage and performance in tandem, leading to bottlenecks.

Modern solutions allow you to expand capacity and compute power as needed, helping ensure your AI initiatives move forward.

The combination of scalability, automation, and connectivity sets the stage for your business to finally break free from the constraints of distributed data. But perhaps the most exciting part is what comes next: the insights and opportunities that emerge when data starts working for you.



Your data is waiting

Right now, your organization's most valuable insights may be sitting idle in far-flung locations, hidden from the teams and tools that need them. But they don't have to stay there.

With a unified, AI-ready data foundation, you can break down barriers, automate time-consuming tasks, and scale to meet the demands of today's most ambitious projects. The result isn't just better data; it's better decisions, faster innovation, and a competitive edge in your industry. Your data's full potential is closer than you think.

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