TIME MACHINE SOFTWARE
Optimizing Production Processes

SmartAnalyzer® for HSM – Frequently Asked Questions

How is SmartAnalyzer used?

SmartAnalyzer requires minimal input by the user. Its menu-driven, fill-in-the-blanks ISPF interface allows you to easily analyze your current backup procedures from a number of different perspectives. This results in clear, comprehensive, and easy-to-use reports. Best of all, you can spend more time solving your backup problems rather than searching for and comparing the relevant information.

How does SmartAnalyzer improve my backup procedures?

SmartAnalyzer improves the reliability and performance of your current backup procedures by applying the following five key strategies:

- **Detect Missing Backups**
  Often there are important or even crucial application data sets which are not backed up by HSM, or which are backed up at a wrong point-in-time (PIT). In case of software or hardware failure, the absence of proper backups may cause valuable time to be lost and, in extreme cases, even impact your business. Sample exposures: Active data set not backed up at all; Data set is updated multiple times with no intervening backups.

- **Detect Unusable Backups**
  Sometimes existing backup/migrated data sets and volumes contain invalid data which is actually unusable when recovery is required. The impact of this situation is usually equivalent to not having any backup at all. Sample exposures: Tape backup/migration volume already scratched; Backup taken while data set was updated.

- **Detect Non-Standard Backups**
  Jobs often contain steps to back up data in a non-standard manner, causing resources to be wasted, and valuable time to be lost during recovery. Sample exposures: Backup for data set taken via general copy program (e.g., IEBGENER); Backup taken bypassing DFSMS-defined backup policy.

- **Detect Conflicting Backup Policies/Statuses**
  Backup and migration policies defined to the local data management products, or backup/migration statuses maintained in the local data management products, are sometimes not identical, causing data to be lost. Sample exposures: Differing expiration date for a backup/migration file (volume) in HSM and in the Tape Management system; Improper status of a migrated data set in the System Catalog.

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- **Detect Excessive Backups and Migrations**
  More backups and migrations than actually required are often performed, causing resources to be wasted. Eliminating unnecessary backups/migrations can drastically reduce system resources consumption, backup window time and space management time. Sample points: Excessive backup performed for data which does not change; Migrating the same data sets in and out frequently ("Migration Trashing").