

“To Be or Not To Be”...What Was The Question?

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ABSTRACT

Seismic data is at the heart of the exploration process yet Canadian exploration and producing (E&P) companies are like pack rats when it comes to managing this valuable asset. Despite proven on-line data management technologies, many companies never question their antiquated management of millions of computer tapes and boxes of paper data. This is changing as more powerful interpretive workstation software is prompting geophysicists to ask if there is a faster and more complete way to access their seismic asset.

The question that every data manager must eventually ask is: “To be online or not to be online...” Yet this question raises more questions:

Are the benefits worth the capital cost? When is electronic storage more cost efficient than physical storage? How do we know which technology is right for our company? Should all data be made available on-line? Is on line data safe and secure? How and where do we start?

Competitive E&P’s can no longer avoid answering these questions with a “wait and see attitude.” Avoiding the questions can be more harmful and costly than making a wrong decision.

This paper examines the benefits, dangers and pitfalls of on-line seismic data management options so that oil and gas data managers can define the right questions and make informed business decisions. Unlike Hamlet, data managers can have answers if they know the right questions.