

Information Pack Rats

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TTo get an idea of how much information is in some of the world's largest databases, imagine a bookshelf 150 miles long: the content of the books on that shelf would be roughly one terabyte of data.

According to a survey released this month by the Winter Corporation, a database consulting company in Waltham, Mass., the largest database reported by survey participants this year contained almost 30 terabytes of information. "That would be about 4,500 miles of bookshelves," said Richard Winter, the company's president. "It would stretch across the country and then some."

That database belongs to France Télécom, mainly because the company keeps extensive records of its sales transactions.

Mr. Winter's company has been conducting this survey since 1995; in 2001, the largest database reported was 10 terabytes. As Mr. Winter pointed out, "One thing the survey tells us is that databases are getting larger at a rapid rate."

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Companies with largest databases	MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE	TOTAL STORAGE (TERABYTES)
France Télécom	Oracle	29.2
AT&T	Daytona	26.3
SBC	Teradata	24.8
Anonymous*	DB2	16.2
Amazon.com	Oracle	13.0
Kmart	Teradata	12.6
Claria	Oracle	12.1
Health Ins. Review Agency	Sybase IQ	11.9
FedEx Services	Teradata	10.0
Vodafone D2	Teradata	9.1

Source: Winter Corporation

*Company declined