

Using a BI-DataMall® to Easily Access Legacy Information

Reduce the costs of maintain legacy data with SQL Server from Microsoft

"By converting our historical information from our legacy system to a SQL Server 2005 database, we were able to consolidate the information we need to effectively report operational outcomes from past to present, while reducing the cost to maintain older software and hardware that is no longer actively used."



Situation

The customer was faced with maintaining legacy systems that house historical information used in comprehensive reporting for meeting compliance regulations. These systems have valuable information that must be kept for reporting purposes, but are no longer used for operational purposes. The customer had high Maintenance costs for supporting legacy hardware and software, which continued to get higher each year due to the special skills needed to support the software and older hardware and there was a constant threat of hardware failure.

Business users struggled to find and extract the information they needed from these legacy systems, but investing in new tools and training didn't make good business sense. And, there was no way to consolidate the legacy systems information with other active systems because the legacy systems database was incompatible with industry standard reporting tools.

Since the company was moving their LOB and ERP systems to Microsoft based platforms, the company wanted to replace legacy skill sets with Microsoft skill sets.

Customer Concerns

The customer knew that there were several risk factors:

- Dissipation of scarce budget resources if the benefits were not captured
- Loss of user confidence if the information was incorrect or difficult to retrieve
- Dissemination of wrong information would adversely affect user business decisions

They knew that not all the data in the legacy system needed to be converted and they were concerned that additional data may have to be converted at a later date. The risk of choosing too little or too much directly affected the cost and length of time for the project.

They knew that some of the converted data needed to be consolidated and disseminated with other information gathered from multiple disparate systems.

The Customer was also concerned about the mapping process; specifically that the mapping and labeling of data, if done incorrectly, would result in

By consolidating the information stored on these older, legacy systems, onto a SQL Server 2005 database, companies can extract, consolidate and disseminate information from multiple disparate systems for more comprehensive reporting, while reducing or eliminating the cost of maintaining legacy systems.

The customer is a leading electronics manufacturer with customers world-wide.



erroneous business process reporting when accessed by the users. So, they required support from someone who had the business expertise to find and interpret the information stored in the ERP systems.

All of this had to be decided upon, and executed, as quickly as possible – the sense of urgency being driven by possible hardware failure, where the cost of recovery was very high.

Solution

The customer brought in AccessIG, Inc., a Microsoft Certified Partner, as a member of the team to help mitigate the risks and to accelerate the capturing of the benefits. Because AccessIG had extensive A&D experience the customer did not have to script each step of the process. And, based on their extensive experience, brought valuable “best practices” experience that they cus.

As a result, the customer gained faster benefits at a lower cost due to:

- the acceleration of the process improvements and prototyping phase
- the acceleration of the identification of the cost/benefit
- the acceleration of the identification of avoidable risk that customer could draw upon.

After evaluating other solutions for archiving their data, the customer agreed to use their existing SQL Server database, requiring almost no additional licensing.

Using AccessIG, the customer implemented a BI-DataMall® solution, (a separate relational database implementation where information from disparate system can be stored in a format that is easily accessed by users) based on Microsoft SQL Server technologies.

The customer, along with the business experiences provided by AccessIG, selected the information that was to be converted to the BI-DataMall.

Data was automatically extracted from the legacy system and combined into a single, multi-divisional BI-DataMall. Information was mapped and properly labeled as it was loaded ensuring accuracy and ease of reporting.

All legacy data was backed up in the event it was needed in the future. This allowed the customer to quickly deploy

the archived data on the SQL Server database, while preserving options for future needs.

The BI-DataMall, through NT authentication, provided multiple levels of security with a single sign on so the security implementation was transparent to the users and required no additional training.

The BI-DataMall was installed using SQL Server 2005 which included Server Reporting Services (SSRS), SQL Server Report Builder (SSRB). The customer had already selected this tool set as the reporting tools of choice for their new LOB and ERP systems and had already completed training.

Benefits

The customer was able to quickly and inexpensively get off the legacy systems before they failed

Business users were able to easily access the legacy information and create the reports they needed

Users didn't have to learn new tools, training was minimal

The customer was able to eliminate legacy skill sets and put those resource into newer skill sets

All users in the strategic business unit had a centralized location for accessing information

Information can be consolidated with data from other sources

The information is structured for easy reporting and analysis

Customer has multiple options for creating and distributing reports; i.e., automatically generated, one time, published, e-mailed, etc.

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