



Business Data Quality help Atomic Weapons Establishment monitor their data assets

The AWE is using BDQ Monitor to regularly check the quality of their data. This case study tells how BDQ Monitor was used to help with the delivery of an ambitious business transformation programme, project Unite.

Project Unite - background

Unite is a project to unify payroll, planning and management processes across the AWE. From the start, the Unite team recognized that data and data quality would be critical to the success of the project. The consolidation and migration of data from multiple incumbent systems to a new Oracle ERP solution has meant that the team have had to ensure that not only does the data meet the technical requirements of the new system but supports the new business processes introduced, too.

Using BDQ Analysis, the Unite team initially profiled the data to determine how well the existing data met the project's requirements. From this start point, the business units responsible for each legacy system agreed to enhance, where necessary, their data in order to meet the project's requirements and in time for its go-live date.

Data quality - a moving target

To make this approach a success, the Unite team decided that they needed a centralized way of ensuring that the data to be loaded into Oracle would meet the project's requirements. However, to achieve this, a number of key challenges had to be overcome:

- The legacy systems would remain 'live' up until cut-over to the new ERP solution. The effectiveness of any initiatives to improve the data by the business units could be impeded by ongoing changes or additions to the data.
- To compensate, the Unite team wanted to provide the business units with regular feedback on the data that did not meet the project's requirements.
- The Unite team needed to check multiple database applications, of varying data volumes, simultaneously.
- Existing project timescales required a solution that was easy to deploy and rapid to implement.

Customer Profile:

The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) has been central to the defence of the United Kingdom for more than 50 years.

AWE hosts one of the largest and most advanced research and development centres in the United Kingdom and is internationally recognised for scientific, engineering, manufacturing and business excellence.

"BDQ Monitor made a seemingly difficult problem very easy... it has been a real success story."

Dave Webster, Data Management Lead for Project Unite



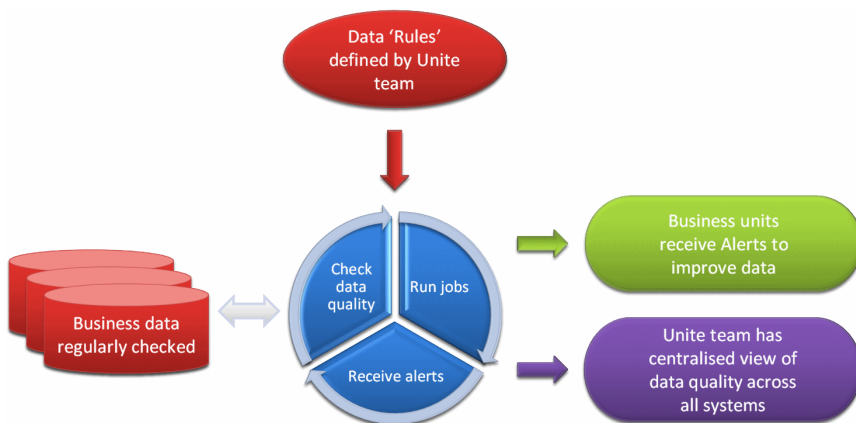
BDQ Monitor - centralized data monitoring

The Unite team selected BDQ Monitor for its ability to handle the exacting challenges facing them. Scalable, flexible, easy to implement and quick to deploy, BDQ Monitor has given the Unite team a centralized means to certify whether the data meets the project's business and technical requirements.

'Set and Forget' - automated data checking

BDQ Monitor was used as the project's 'data certification' layer. By regularly checking the quality of the data within each legacy system, the Unite team was able to determine what data met the project's requirements before attempting to migrate it.

Checks were run automatically against the legacy systems with each business unit receiving



customized alerts notifying them when data was not conforming to the project's requirements and giving them the relevant information to address the problem at the source. In addition, the Unite team was able to monitor the effectiveness of the business units' improvement activities and determine where data issues were concentrated.

BDQ Monitor's ability to connect to a wide range of sources allowed the Unite team to continually monitor the

data of each legacy system, including those with large data volumes. Rules to check business and technical aspects of the data that were unique to the AWE could also be created.

BDQ Monitor was installed and running the first series of checks within a matter of minutes. The Unite team could use their existing knowledge of the legacy databases to create 'rules' checking whether the data would meet the project's requirements quickly. Specialist assistance to use BDQ Monitor was not required and the minimal learning curve allowed the project to hit the ground running.

BDQ Monitor - easy to implement, low TCO, real business value

BDQ Monitor proved to be a critical point solution for the Unite team and AWE. Regularly checking the legacy data helped in three ways; the Unite team had a measurable assessment of whether the data met the project's requirements prior to its migration into Oracle ERP, the business units had a benchmark to measure the effectiveness their data improvement activities and finally, the management board had a more accurate picture of this part of the project and was therefore able to manage it to better effect.



As a centralized data monitoring capability, BDQ Monitor has given the AWE visibility of its data assets residing in a number of systems. This, in turn, has established confidence that the data is being used to its maximum potential in supporting business operations.

Finally, existing deadlines and budget constraints meant the Unite team needed a solution that was fast to implement and did not pull resources away from other aspects of the project. By leveraging existing database skill-sets and investments and not needing to learn new proprietary skills, the Unite team was able to deploy and implement BDQ Monitor within their existing timeframes. Furthermore, BDQ Monitor's light application footprint meant that additional hardware was not required.

Recognizing the value BDQ Monitor provides, Dave Webster, Data Management Lead for Project Unite said, *"BDQ Monitor has made a seemingly difficult problem very easy. With the legacy systems remaining 'live' until cut-over, we needed to be sure that our data would be able to support the new ERP platform. BDQ Monitor allowed us to perform regular health checks against our data and rapidly identify when issues occurred. BDQ Monitor has given us real visibility of our data and, with it, more confidence in it as a business asset. It has been a real success story."*

For more information

For further information about this case study, or to be contacted by a member of the BDQ team please contact us at:

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