

Project Unite - Business Data Quality helps the Atomic Weapons Establishment increase data quality visibility for a major Oracle ERP implementation

Data - the fourth pillar of technology change

Major transformation programs usually rest on three pillars of technology change: 'Process', 'People' and 'Technology'. However, it is now widely recognised that the effectiveness of any business system is inextricably linked with the quality of its data - the fourth pillar.

From inception, the Project Unite team recognised that in addition to the successful implementation and configuration of the new Oracle system, the *quality* of the data used to populate it, would be critical. The availability of high quality data would reduce the time and effort taken to bring the new system on line, enhance its usability, and therefore improve its return on investment.

The Project Unite team quickly identified that the first key step to addressing the data aspect of the programme was to assess the data landscape within the legacy applications, and identify the degree to which it met the requirements of the Oracle solution. To achieve this, four key points were identified:

- The need to perform accurate analysis of data contained within the legacy applications
- The requirement to understand the degree to which the legacy data fitted the requirements of the target application (gap analysis)
- The means to track, manage and report on the analysis process
- The need to achieve this process within a limited time scale and budget

BDQ Analysis - data discovery and analysis management

It was obvious that traditional, manual analysis techniques would not allow the AWE to complete the tasks on time, or budget so an alternative, more efficient and accurate solution was required. After looking at a number of options, Project Unite selected BDQ Analysis based upon its ease of use, its ability to analyse data quickly, and its integrated analysis management framework.

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.

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Dave Webster, Data Management Lead for Project Unite

BDQ Analysis' data profiling technologies allowed AWE to capture important information about their data (including value and pattern ranges) and to test easily the consistency and business relationships between different data assets (using features such as key testing, Join and Dependency analysis). This information was automatically stored within the Suite's metadata repository, creating a central Data Definition Library.

In addition to BDQ Analysis's core analysis capabilities, the AWE also utilised 'BDQ Progress' - BDQ Analysis's integrated analysis management framework - to capture issues and identify where enhancements to their data assets could be made. Issues and notes could be recorded and catalogued directly against the data, metadata and personnel concerned, saving the team time in terms of administrative overheads and providing slice and dice issue reporting to management teams.

Confidence through understanding.

BDQ Analysis is proving to be a critical tool for AWE and the Project Unite team. From the analysis phase of the project, the team is now able to work towards an effective data migration with greater confidence that the legacy data will be successfully loaded into the new ERP system, but that it will also support the new business processes being implemented.

Recognising the value of BDQ Analysis provides, Dave Webster, Data Management Lead for Project Unite, said *"Data quality is one of the key factors for Project Unite being a success, in that not only do we need the confidence that we were using the right data from our legacy applications but that it is also fit for purpose within Oracle. BDQ Analysis has been instrumental in helping us achieving this and, given time and budget controls, something we simply could not have done using traditional analysis approaches. I am very pleased with our decision to use BDQ software and believe it has added real value to the work we are doing."*

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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