

CASE STUDY

Business Intelligence Solutions using Pentaho for a Global Shoe Manufacturer

Company Description

Trigent's customer is one of the world's leading makers of fashion products and accessories with over 250 stores in the USA that sell brands that are over 100 year old. Headquartered in Europe, the company wanted to integrate its US operations with the parent company to serve the growing US market and customers better. The US entity embarked on a large integration project, moving away from their existing legacy ERP solution to the worldwide, unified SAP implementation.

The Challenge

The US entity managed their operations with several custom applications like Order Forecasting and Item Master. These applications were built on technologies such as Oracle, Java and .NET. After migration to SAP, these applications need to be integrated with unified SAP database. About 120 such integration modules had to be designed and developed. In parallel, enhancements were to be made to the applications to customize them to interface with SAP.

The US database itself was structurally large and complex with more than 8 schemas each having 100s of tables with large amounts of data. During integration, data cleansing and data mapping needed to be done. Trigent was given the challenge of completing the data integration for all the legacy applications with the new SAP implementation, under a tight schedule.

The Solution

Trigent developed a system integration solution using a custom data integration solution using Java applications, ETL tools like Pentaho and a systematic risk-free process for integration involving 4 steps: data cleansing, data mapping, data enhancement, selection of tools (Java or Pentaho) and data integration and testing.

Trigent deployed its project team across US and India to support this complex project that had teams from other business partners of the client spread across US, Europe, South America and India.

Project methodology was focused on proving feasibility at each step using prototypes, trial runs and user acceptance. Development of each integration solution involved a Study Phase, Solution Development Phase, Development & Deployment

Client

World's leading makers of fashion products & accessories with over 250 stores in the USA

Project Objective

Applications needed to be integrated with unified SAP database

Technology

Java, Struts Pentaho, Google Web Toolkit (GWT)

Benefits

- ✓ The solution was a seamless transition with the US applications tightly integrated with the parent SAP database
- ✓ Met all the targeted performance parameters laid out by the customer

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/Testing Phase.

Many specific challenges came up during the execution and were efficiently resolved by the team. The database was being enhanced in parallel with the Study Phase and Solution Phase. The speed and performance of the global integration solution was critical as the supply chain would be affected if up to date data was not available for each application at the time and speed which was necessary. Teams involved in SAP implementation were closely collaborating to see that the overall SAP project schedule had no disruption.

Results

Trigent used a hybrid onsite – offshore model to deliver the data integration solution to its customer. The project was completed in 5 months with some enhancement tasks and support extending another 4 months.

The solution was a seamless transition with the US applications tightly integrated with the parent SAP database meeting all the targeted performance parameters laid out by the customer.