

The Client

The client, ABC Metals, is a leading supplier of metals to various industries that include aerospace, defense, sports and medical equipment manufacturers.

Operating from three strategic locations in the United States, it serves both North American and international customers. They deploy a strong and diverse supply chain linking all major metal supplier and mills, both national and abroad.

The Problem

With the global and national supply chains becoming tighter and more integrated, it became necessary that the client put in place means, methods and tools that would give them insights into various aspects of their plant operations. This means not just insights into day-to-day operations but issues of strategic importance, like sales forecasting, business performance and so on.

The operations/strategic management teams preferred a central reporting and analytic system from where they could design metrics, run reports and analyze data so it can be fed into decision making.

As of then, the data for each unit was maintained in different sources like flat files, SAP R3 and SAP BI systems. There was no central single interface, which translated to huge costs of time and effort needed to build individual reports, maintain the data sources etc.

This situation prompted the business to decide to move away from such a decentralized, disparate system to a robust, scalable and centralized Business Intelligence (BI) concept.

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The Solution

IntelliCompute Systems worked with the client to evolve a solution that is in alignment with the overall BI vision and roadmap of the client.

IntelliCompute Systems's partnership with the client began and progressed in multiple iterative sessions for the entire duration of the project:

1. Build a data mart that would support all Executive dashboards.
2. Setup provisions to store all data and its history at the date level.
3. Design, test and build highly interactive dashboards with intuitive design.
4. Apart from these dashboards, an additional dashboard module that validates data accuracy has also been built.

Few Key Challenges are :

1. Having to design a database that meets both the needs of the dashboards and history preservation.
2. Limitations in the Xcelsius tool in making the dashboards more real-time and interactive.

The Technology Stack

- Business Objects Edge XI 3.0
- Xcelsius 2008
- Business Objects Data Integrator
- Oracle 10 g



The Result

With the solution that IntelliCompute implemented, the client witnessed dramatic improvements in the way their reporting/analytics function and decision making process was handled:

1. All discrete data brought into one centralized location.
2. A diverse set of users, from different departments/business units being able to access real-time information at a single location.
3. Easy to navigate user interface, with step-by-step features to build reports on the go.
4. Ad-hoc reporting and analysis for faster and accurate decision making.
5. This is in addition to the scheduled operational reports at all Executive & Non-executive levels of the organization.

The overall project outcome has been that the business has an excellent insight into their day-to-day operations. This reduced the unnecessary and repetitive time/efforts consumed for delivering the same reports, thereby increasing the productivity of the IT department.

IntelliCompute Work Management

IntelliCompute Systems is ideally placed to collaborate with the client as an integrated team to scope, design, develop and deploy the Business Objects Enterprise. Project leads from the client side are provided with the design for warehouse, functionality and generalized architecture. IntelliCompute Systems is involved in architecture and planning, techniques of designing the data warehouse, ETL design, ETL development, gathering the reporting requirements, creation of semantic layer to ease of end user in querying and reporting, creating very challenging and high end reports for business users to take strategic decisions on their system.

Our project planning in terms of timelines is prepared in such a way that our teams get the required base time to study, evaluate and document the client's operations/requirements at each stage. Our projects are structured as end-to-end development phases. Each such phase consists of gathering requirements, analyzing the activities, designing the Extraction, Transformation and Loading (ETL) process, designing semantic layer for ease of reporting and finally creating dashboards/reports per end user requirements. This approach ensures and focuses on the most important part of implementation of BI that is Reporting & Analysis.

About IntelliCompute Systems

At Intellicompute, we achieve real business results that allow you to transform, and not just maintain, your operations. Our IT services, business solutions and outsourcing bring you a level of certainty that no other competitor can match. You will experience your requirements being met on time, within budget and with high quality; greater efficiency and responsiveness to your business; and the ability to shift investment to strategic initiatives rather than tactical functions.

Intellicompute uses its industry experience and technology expertise to develop and deliver products, tools and methodologies that help bring solutions to the fore more quickly and with higher quality. Over the years, we have evolved processes and systems that capture critical client needs, survey the set of existing third-party tools/technologies, and then develop solution accelerators that help clients achieve quicker outcomes.

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