Major bottling and distribution company leverages supply chain management system with data integration project

DECISION SUPPORT INC
Intelligent Reporting Solutions

Problem

Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated (CCBCC) implemented a leading supply chain solution that incorporated Oracle databases and Unix flat files. Additional critical data, including millions of sales transactions, was stored on an IBM OS 390 mainframe in massive, complex VSAM files. Running manufacturing and inventory projection reports required data from all three systems. A large business intelligence software application had been installed to run the projection reports, but because of the incompatibility of the databases, the reports often took hours to compile, and in some cases, generated errors in results. A faster, more reliable data access and report generation system was desired to reduce the risk of delaying time-sensitive distribution operations.

Key Criteria:

- Cross-platform compatibility with Oracle, Unix flat files, and IBM OS 390 mainframe databases
- Fast, efficient through-put of millions of records
- Ability to work with Actuate's e-Reports reporting software
- Scalability to work with future applications and additional databases

Solution

Decision Support worked closely with CCBCC's I/S Project Manager and interviewed end users to determine the information needed, and how to get it to the people who needed it.

The Unix flat files were converted to an Oracle database, which provides much faster retrieval capabilities. The next step was to tap technology partner, CrossAccess, and incorporate their eXadas™ tool to extract data from the VSAM files, enabling Decision Support's DQ*broker*® to join the extracted VSAM and Oracle data on a per-query basis.

Actuate's e-Reports software was selected to provide the front-end reporting application. Once application protocol interfaces (APIs) were developed to interact with e-Reports, the team completed the data access and delivery project for an initial, test set of reports.

The proof of concept project was fully functional in less than five weeks.

Results

- Inventory and manufacturing forecasting data are consolidated for reporting in a few minutes, instead of hours, enabling forecasting reports to be delivered on time to the people who need the information.
- Forecasting reports are more accurate and reliable.
- CCBCC can access the data in the joined databases and feed data across multiple application vendors' products. Data has become truly independent of the database vendor and application vendor.

"Now we are able to produce daily inventory and manufacturing forecasts in minutes. DQbroker has provided us with the ability to readily access and manipulate our data in an easily scalable architecture, which will make it easier for us to accomplish any future projects that require data from multiple sources."

Lisa Steves
I/S Project Manager
Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated

Having trouble getting information out to the people who need it WHEN they need it?

We customize solutions!

Tell us the problem, and we'll show you how to save time and money with a solution that fits your needs to a tee. Whether it's data access or reporting, Decision Support's experts will craft a plan and implement your project on time and on budget. No surprises, no excuses.

So tell us where it hurts, and we'll make it better!

About Decision Support Inc.

Decision Support Inc., based in Matthews, NC, provides intelligent reporting solutions that access data from anywhere in the enterprise for clients in more than 20 countries with thousands of end users. Its clients represent a diverse range of businesses, including financial institutions, manufacturing facilities, healthcare providers, and government agencies. From fast-access historical reports to up-to-the-minute transaction queries, accessing data from mainframes to most of today's platforms and database management systems, Decision Support's software puts the user in control of data-to-knowledge delivery.

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