Silotech Saves Customer over $200K for Data Integration Project using CA ERwin® Data Modeler

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Organization:
Silotech Group, Inc

Industry:
Consulting

Employees:
50

Business Impact Summary

BUSINESS:

Silotech Group Inc, a San Antonio, Texas based information technology consulting firm, is a leading provider of expert Enterprise Management Systems and Technologies resources. Silotech specializes in Oracle Applications and provides expertise in Oracle e-Business Suite, Release 11i/12, PeopleSoft, Oracle Retail, Hyperion applications, and Fusion Middleware for clients in the federal and commercial sectors.

CHALLENGE:

Silotech was tasked with integrating disparate data sources as a result of an acquisition. The infrastructures of the two companies were vastly different, as well as the business rules and definitions. In addition, the corporate culture of the two companies differed greatly in terms of technical capabilities, technical training and expertise.

SOLUTION:

CA ERwin Data Modeler was used to create both a technical and business inventory of information, and streamline the development and maintenance costs of integration. Non-technical users were able to access information easily through intuitive and accessible reporting.

RESULT:

Silotech's client saved over $200k by increasing efficiencies with CA ERwin Data Modeling. In addition, communication between team members was increased as core data definitions were published and understood, and technical maintenance was automated and streamlined.

"It was a no-brainer to choose CA ERwin. Things are running along like clockwork. We sold them on best practices, best technologies, and they saw the results. They won't fool around with cutting corners again—they will choose the market-leading tool.",

Joel Londenberg,
VP of Program Management at Silotech.

Business

KEEPING INFORMATION FLOWING THROUGH AN ACQUISITION

Company cultures were the primary challenge. Silotech's client, the acquired firm, was a less technical educational publishing company. The acquiring company was technically savvy, with advanced reporting strategies and green infrastructure in place. Additionally, the company was faced with integrating two technically and semantically disparate data stores housing key corporate information assets, such as Material, Purchasing, Ordering, and Tracking data. To keep business running smoothly throughout the transition, it was imperative that an inventory of information was created that was cohesive and comprehensible, and that the data assets from both companies were merged into a single, unified view of the enterprise.

Challenge

INTEGRATING DISPARATE CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL ENVIRONMENTS

A top priority of the merger was to integrate the core information assets of the two companies' key business intelligence and operational systems into a new environment. This posed a significant technical hurdle. The new system was a multi-terabyte Oracle 10g RAC application used to capture scanned images for scoring. This system needed to integrate a multitude of legacy sources from the old environment, including DBMS, Peoplesoft applications, flat files, etc. .

In order to achieve the technical integration, the business rules and definitions from the two companies had to become one. A logical model needed to be designed to make this a reality. Although each company's core data assets were similar (e.g. Materials, Orders), they had unique definitions and rules surrounding the usage, meanings, and reference to the data. Silotech inventoried the existing environment and scoring data before integrating assets into the new environment with Oracle 10g RAC.

Cultural differences exacerbated the challenges. Silotech's client, the acquired firm, an educational publishing company, was less technical. The acquiring company was technically savvy, with advanced reporting strategies and green infrastructure in place. In addition to organizational and cultural challenges, the company was faced with integrating two technically and semantically disparate data stores housing key corporate information assets, such as, Material, Purchasing, Ordering, and Tracking data. To keep business running smoothly throughout the transition, it was imperative that an inventory of information was created that was cohesive and comprehensible, and that the data assets from both companies were merged into a single, unified view of the enterprise.

Solution

CONSOLIDATING INFORMATION

Silotech used CA ERwin Data Modeler to Reverse Engineer information from the source environments and port them into the new system, in order to create an inventory of the data assets to be integrated. The outcome was a clear roadmap of the infrastructure, and a means to easily translate from one platform to another. Synchronization was automated in both directions for both existing and new applications—using database ALTER scripts. Developers gained in efficiency and consistency.

A business-friendly view of the data infrastructure was achieved by creating a logical model to manage the business rules and requirements. This enabled the use of best practices so business rules could be understood and implemented, and a single view of the definitions for core data assets could be documented and published across the organization. Less technical members of the team used Crystal Reports in order for end-users to share key information with the team. The initial thinking that this would be a challenge vanished, when found to be very straightforward using the ODBC integration with CA ERwin Data Modeler.

The simplicity and ease of use of the architecture created by CA ERwin Data Modeler allayed many of the fears of the team. The developers were able to work more efficiently by understanding what information existed and how it was structured, and by providing a common change-management infrastructure for driving new development. Non-technical team members were able to use the logical data model and the end-user reports in Crystal Reports in order to understand the information they needed to manage. In fact, the project lead was a CPA by trade, and had little trouble using the models and reports.

"Silotech completed the project two months ahead of schedule, and attributed that efficiency directly to the use of CA ERwin Data Modeler."

Joel Londenberg,
VP of Program Management at Silotech.

Results

FASTER ACCESS TO MORE RELIABLE INFORMATION

As a result of the efficiencies created by this new architecture, the organization was able to save over $200k in consulting and implementation costs. Silotech completed the project two months ahead of schedule, and attributed that efficiency directly to the use of CA ERwin Data Modeler.

"Success occurred on a lot of different levels, not just monetary", according to Joel Londenberg, VP of Program Management at Silotech. "They were scared of this application and the amount of data, so this allayed a lot of fears." The ability to make the job easier for both technical and non-technical members of the team was a big part of the buy-in and success of the project.

When asked what prompted Silotech to choose CA ERwin as the solution of choice, Mr. Londenberg responded "It was a no-brainer to choose CA ERwin. Things are running along like clockwork. We sold them on best practices, best technologies, and they saw the results. They won't fool around with cutting corners again—they will choose the market-leading tool."

To learn more about how your company can benefit from CA ERwin products, visit ERwin.com.