DATA ARCHITECTURE MADE SIMPLE WITH ER/STUDIO

Global Financial Services Organization Turns to ER/Studio for High-Performance Data Modeling

CHALLENGE

A senior data architect for a global financial services corporation needed a robust data modeling solution that could help his organization deliver high quality systems at a faster pace, and make data more readily available and easy to use.

The organization's IT environment comprises several thousand databases across a complex, multi-platform environment including SQL Server, IBM Db2 z/OS, Oracle, PostgreSQL, and Hadoop. At any given time these databases support over 2,000 applications ranging from accounts receivable, sales and marketing, and human resources, to lending products, credit cards, and vendor/partner tools.

A team of approximately 100 database admins and data architecture professionals serve as the focal/control point for production releases and hand-off to the operations team for day-to-day oversight of databases after release.

ORGANIZATON PROFILE

Industry Global financial services corporation   **Employees** 59,000+   **Databases** Several thousand

SOLUTION

After a competitive evaluation, the team selected IDERA ER/Studio Data Architect to help with entity relationship modeling, gathering metadata, using attachments to extend metadata, generating model documentation, executing compare-and-merge functions between logical and physical models, and visualizing database requirements.

The extensive product capabilities give the data architect's team better visibility to the model assets within their environment. "ER/Studio helps us show how terms such as 'account number' are being used across the environment." For example, the "Where Used" search capability displays mappings for objects shared across multiple models.

ER/Studio Data Architect capabilities are now critical to the organization's data architecture development and database design with rich metadata. "It makes it really nice and handy to deliver the work that we do and get approval," said the senior data architect.

It does amazingly well getting things checked in and checked out...I'm a happy guy right now.

Senior data architect

The product is also especially useful in helping new team members create models and make improvements to optimize their database designs and gather rich metadata.

Eventually the team expanded into using Enterprise Team Edition with Team Server to assist with publishing models, searching across models, and reporting features. Currently, more than 100 web users access and share models and metadata through Team Server. The tool provides easy check-out and check-in, and is highly responsive to handling their extensive workload.
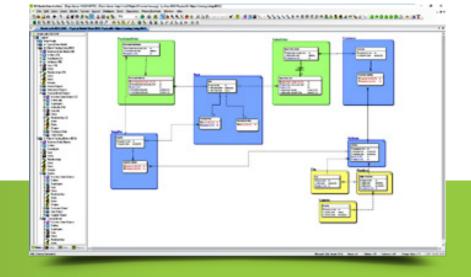
RESULTS

The team is extremely impressed with ER/Studio's performance. What previously took more than two months to publish and update diagrams has been reduced to less than eight hours for approximately 2,000 diagrams with nearly three million attributes to move into production.

"We went from Friday to Saturday morning to migrate 2,000 diagrams. That was quite the effort previously."

In addition, ER/Studio's publication tab provides increased efficiencies and visibility into the team's model publishing processes, replacing manual efforts for model publishing with automated processes.

"Before ER/Studio there was no tool that provided insight into what was going on. I ended up writing my own queries to get the status of publications," said the senior data architect. "Now, I don't even have to log in to SQL Server to see what's going on with auto-publishing. That was a huge benefit."

He continued, "This tool will inevitably create a good design. The value of having a good design versus a bad design is huge."

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