INFORMATICA UPGRADE AND UPDATE DATA INTEGRATION ARCHITECTURE

Our client, a Property and Casualty insurance company,was struggling to load their data as part of their daily batches in a timely fashion. Moreover, the Informatica version used by the client was no longer supported by the vendor. The client determined to settle downby restructuring its data integration architecture and upgrading its Informatica to the latest version simultaneously.

Project Focus

Our client set out with the objectives of restructuring its data integration architecture and upgrading its Informatica version to 9.1 from the current 8.6 simultaneously to improve data load performance and re-establish the supported Informatica environment. The complexity of client's infrastructure environment was the biggest challenge in this

upgrade project. They run around 1200 jobs to move terabytes worth of data into more than eight target systems across different projects and subject areas. The project team required the involvement of dozens of developers to carry out data migration and testing while ensuring that the ongoing batch loads were not disturbed.

The Solution

As the best possible solution to this challenge, we set up a project team for our client, identifying a Senior Informatica Consultant as the consulting advisor and administrator for the entire project. A sequenced project plan was created and implemented for the achievement of desired results.

Infrastructure Design

Initially, we had to look into the performance issues that would have resulted due to two different data centers located in different cities. To address this challenge, we established redundant Informatica servers for each of Production, QA and Dev. In simple words, duplicated instances were created for Informatica in both data centers, eliminating the need to move large amounts of data across the WAN of these two data centers.

Data Subsetting

Load the data into Dev and QA data warehouse environments by subsetting Production support environment. We have used data subsetting to keep the required disk space from expanding significantly. To keep data minimal, historical data was excluded from these data sets.

Setup Informatica Servers

Three new Informatica servers in each data center were set up featuring the latest version of the Informatica, making up a total of six new servers. Three servers from these were pointed towards the same sources as in the previous version but their targets were changed to be directed towards the data warehouse tables that were established for the QA and Development environments.

Code Migration

Coordinate code migrations with respective team leads and their developers, initially in Development and later in QA for their project. A set of Informatica mappings would be migrated and then run manually both in the new and existing server. It was carefully ensured that both servers were using the same data sources which required precise data loading timing.

Informatica DVO

The data load results were tested using the DVO feature of Informatica between new and existing target databases. This ensured that data in the new version of Informatica was loaded exactly the same way as it was done in the previous version.

Production Cut-Over

Last, we scheduled a production cut-over. First, the mappings associated with a project were upgraded into the new Informatica repository. The initial data load on the new Informatica server was accomplished manually. This allowed our team to watch for job failures and anomalies. Once everything checked out, Autosys was modified in accordance the newly upgraded server for the project and scheduling was set.

Results

With our help, our client successfully updated its data integration architecture and upgraded its Informatica version over a period of six months. Our client is now capable of loading data five times faster with the new server architecture and is on the most current version of Informatica. The project was successfully completed with no negative business impact – a key measure of success for any upgrade project.

COGENT DATA SOLUTIONS

Global HeadQuarters:
2500 W Higgins Road
Suite # 1165
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169 USA

Phone : +1 847 238 6262
Fax : +1 866 650 4883
TollFree : +1 866 666 1877
Email : info@cogentdatasolutions.com