Xtract QV

Seamless Integration of SAP and QlikView

„Xtract QV allows us to combine the strengths of SAP and QlikView quickly, easily, and reliably.“

Werner Ehlers, Business Application Coordinator, S-Y Systems Technologies Europe GmbH

Company

The automotive industry is shaped by globalization and corporate mergers as well as ever-greater technical and organizational complexity. Surviving in this market requires innovation, process efficiency, product quality, and a focus on what benefits the customer.

Success in these areas is not always a question of company size – something S-Y Systems Technologies Europe GmbH has clearly demonstrated. From its headquarter in Regensburg, Germany, and its sites

in Germany, France, Great Britain, Romania, Spain, and Turkey, the supplier who has 280 employees provides the leading automobile manufacturers with solutions for on-board and electrical architectures for automobiles. In 2011, the company generated revenues totaling around EUR 420 million. S-Y Systems Technologies Europe GmbH has long recognized just how critical powerful IT solutions are to ensuring success: For example, the supplier is therefore able to maximize the efficiency of business processes through a high degree of automation in logistics control-

ling within SAP. The truly "outstanding" nature of the medium-sized company's IT strategy has been demonstrated by the "IT Strategy Award", which is presented by the renowned business and economics magazine Handelsblatt: The company won the special award for SMEs in 2011.

Challenges

As part of the systematic, ongoing IT development as a supporting factor for the various expert departments, the automotive supplier opted for the implementation of a business intelligence tool for mapping analyses and reporting in the Controlling Department. Until now, financial and logistics-specific evaluations were performed using SAP and Excel reports – which was accompanied by a correspondingly high level of manual work. After choosing the QlikView in-memory software, another challenge followed: Finding a suitable connector in order to quickly and easily transfer the several million records from the SAP system to the Business Discovery solution.

Solution

As part of its market research efforts, S-Y Systems also discovered the Stuttgart-based company Theobald Software GmbH, which specializes in the design and development of interfaces between

systems technologies

SAP and non-SAP systems. For over 10 years, the company has also been a solutions provider for companies of nearly all industries and sizes all over the world. The product portfolio also includes Xtract QV: By using the appropriate script, the middleware component makes it possible to extract data, just like any other data source, from SAP systems for further processing in QlikTech's memory-based analysis and reporting tool, QlikView. Xtract QV supports a wide range of SAP extraction methods. The Xtract QV Designer provides a graphical interface for all extraction types, making it easy to use for those without any programming skills.

Advantages

"We wanted a solution that offers performance and ease of use and implementation in equal measure. Xtract QV exactly meets our technical requirements when it comes to usability, processing speed and price-performance ratio," confirms Werner Ehlers, Business Application Coordinator, S-Y Systems Technologies Europe GmbH. The automotive supplier chose the deluxe category of BI components for SAP access: the Xtract

QV DeltaQ version. This software can be used to control the extractor API in SAP ERP, which makes it possible to use the same function found in SAP BW systems for ensuring a reliability data supply from the SAP ERP system. The advantages are the genuine, secure transaction delta transfer of the data and the support for all master and transaction data, including separate generic extractors and hierarchies. In addition, no installation in SAP is required. All business content is immediately available, without requiring any application-specific knowledge such as for the table structure. Ehlers also expressed a great deal of satisfaction with the implementation efforts: In the course of four weeks, both QlikView and Xtract QV were put into production. "Our experience collaborating with Theobald Software was very positive," Ehlers said. "The expertise both in terms of interface technology as well as SAP and QlikView impressed us. A skilled contact person was always available to provide competent support in handling all challenges such as restrictions inherent to SAP with respect to the name length

and other difficulties during the early stages. And since the final system was put into operation, we haven't needed any additional support." The solution has not only been well-received by IT experts; the feedback from business users in Controlling has been positive as well. "We were able to use the BI solution and Xtract QV to reduce the time and cost needed for preparing reports by as much as 50 percent. In terms of analysis and reporting, we have found our 'dream team'," explained Ehlers in conclusion.

March 2012

Time to Value

Implementation and go-live of the Business Discovery platform and the Xtract QV interface within four weeks.

„Thanks to Xtract QV, we have now also been able to realize our company motto ‚Simplify Your Systems' for the extraction of SAP data in our BI solution."

Werner Ehlers, Business Application Coordinator, S-Y Systems Technologies Europe GmbH

www.theobald-software.com