DIMENSION-POLYANT *dramatically reduces their data transaction times by 70%!*

Data Consulting deploys the latest IBM Informix Dynamic Server providing high-speed online transaction processing performance

Sill et Véolia | Roland Jourdain
Winner of the ROUTE DU RHUM 2006 in the 60' IMOCA CLASS with D4 Custom Load Path Sail Laminate from DIMENSION-POLYANT.

"DIMENSION-POLYANT *uses a complex business application that handles the entire process from manufacturing to shipping and billing. It has grown and proved itself over many years. When transported to enJin®, applications like this stay alive, grow with the companies demands and adapt to all platform and hardware changes that occur in a living system.*"

Klaus Bachmann, Data Consulting

DIMENSION-POLYANT, the internationally renowned manufacturer of ultra-modern sailcloth, has helped produce winning sailing teams in this highly competitive sport where seconds can mean the difference between winning or losing… success or failure. With high technology design and manufacturing in multiple locations, DIMENSION-POLYANT has built a network of weaving mills and unique finishing plants where the fabrics pass through a demanding 14-stage program. Each stage of production is continuously and precisely monitored and controlled with the aid of processors with the exchange of data being a critical part of the business. The consistently high production standards are the result of knowledge acquired over many years ensuring the cloth is of the ultimate quality.
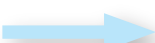
DIMENSION-POLYANT sets the highest standards, and for generations its company philosophy has encompassed the cornerstones of reliability, precision and care. These have been the determining factors as far as innovation and the production of top-quality sailcloth are concerned. For sails that, time and time again, bring the winners home in national and international regattas in all boat classes.

As an international company with a global production network and multiple production processes, the performance of the existing database system was inhibiting the business, with increasingly long data transfer times. An evaluation of the current database system identified that the Informix v5.1 being utilized had been superseded by the many subsequent technology changes and benefits that IBM Informix Dynamic Server (IDS) v10 had to offer.

A high-tech solution from Datacon and IBM

DIMENSION-POLYANT and Data Consulting had been cooperating in business so they were the natural choice to find a solution that would be able to adapt to the demand for higher quality information, streamlined manufacturing plus the constantly developing business processes.

In a multi-stage process, the choice was to upgrade the Informix Dynamic Server (IDS) to v10, and subsequently to v11 as soon as it was released. In preparation for these future upgrades Data Consulting had already deployed their software development tool enJin® into their existing system. This deployment of the enJin® application gave ultimate future upgrade flexibility by allowing easy transportability from one database platform to another. This dramatically accelerated the migration process and offered infinite adaptability. In addition, enJin® works very well with the free ware tool iReport (SourceForge) that makes report generation easy, quick and well maintainable. This way 145 report programs were consolidated and integrated into the application.

Complex data transaction times reduced by 70%!

Business Challenge

DIMENSION-POLYANT's current business database system was outdated and was slowing down the business process. The global transfer, replication and synchronization of the data had to be significantly improved, especially the remote connection from Germany to the Australian warehouse where typical long transfer times had led to high maintenance costs and logistical problems.

A solution to the complicated procedures including substantial streamlining had to be found.
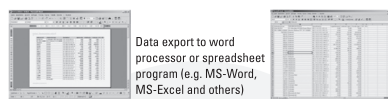
The key business challenges were to…

- Implement a highly integrated and flexible solution, whilst not impacting the logistic demands of the company.

- Allow the rapid integration and adoption of business practices as well as the possibility of more being added.

- Allow for easy expansion in the future.

- Stabilize the database platform, without restricting table sizes.
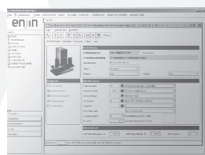
The Solution

Data Consulting recommended DIMENSION-POLYANT to upgrade to IBM Informix Dynamic Server 10 to benefit from its greatly improved performance, superior disk management features and enhanced internet options. This was easily achieved by using the highly successful software development tool enJin® from Data Consulting in the deployment.

An enJin® application can be easily transported from one database platform to another accelerating the migration process and offering more flexibility. This was an important consideration when looking forward to the future, especially with the approaching release of IDS 11.

Database Applications with enJin®

Data export to word processor or spreadsheet program (e.g. MS-Word, MS-Excel and others)

Integration of office suites (e.g. MS-Office, OpenOffice, StarOffice)

Modern, fully graphical user interface

Dialogs completely dynamic and customizable to reflect CI

Integration of PDF documents and evaluation modules (views, charts)

PDF files and integrated evaluations with business charts

Business Transformation

There were a number of critical issues to overcome before the solution could be deployed. Integrating the web database was crucial to its success and then synchronizing this between Europe, Australia and the rest of the world was a major challenge. Add to that the remote-access issue for Australia and it was clear that careful planning and cooperation was essential.

A plan that deployed all the applications into the enJin® tool and then facilitated an easier upgrade to IDS v10. The transparency that the enJin® technology provides allows faster and easier upgrades from one platform to another. This transparency will help the next progression, which is the future upgrade to IDS v11.

Data Consulting delivered a flexible, streamlined application on a reliable database platform with high performance, low maintenance costs and highly effective administration tools.

With the new system in place DIMENSION-POLYANT enjoyed much faster data processing and improved performance. For example, the transfer of data from Germany to Australia was reduced by 70% with the ability to reduce it further with the move to IDS v11.

"Changing the platform went very well and absolutely smoothly. It went a lot better than we could ever expect. We are very satisfied."
Hans Ulrich Hermans,
DIMENSION-POLYANT

Business Benefits

The IBM Informix® Dynamic Server 10 (IDS) delivered to DIMENSION-POLYANT is a robust, reliable database platform that simplified replication, synchronization, documentation and quality control. The immediate benefits over their previous system were substantial and these included:

- Complex data transactions reduced by over 70%.

- The applications built with enJin®, can be deployed on several platforms without recompiling.

- enJin® is a code free Java based production environment. Fully graphical applications are immediately available and directly usable.

Facing the Future…

DIMENSION-POLYANT can now look to the future with confidence. With enJin® they only have to think about issues concerning the platform change. Thanks to the extended meta model they will not have to worry if the application will still run reliably on a new database as the enJin® technology allows transparent migration when upgrading platforms.

The experience that DIMENSION-POLYANT have had with Data Consulting, IBM, IDS and enJin® has proved to them that future platform changes will be practicable and are looking to a successful migration to IDS v11 at the end of the year.

For additional information on how **Data Consulting** can help your organization, contact us at
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or visit our Web sites at
www.data-consulting.de and
www.enjin.net.

Data Consulting and IBM working with DIMENSION-POLYANT**:**
- **Data transaction times reduced by 70%!**
- **Transparent integration of existing programs into the new application**
- **Fast global remote access for all of the international locations**
- **Automatically generated interfaces**