

Leading UK Broadcast Company Challenged with Data Separation for Company Divestiture

Solix Partners with IBM in Key Archiving and Data Subsetting Project

Arqiva has a fifty-year history as an innovator in the broadcast transmission business. They are a key player in the migration from analog to digital transmission.

Challenge:

To identify and successfully separate and relocate 100GB of business data from former parent company's Oracle 11i database without data loss.

The timeframe for separation was extremely short with an original project estimate of 6-9 months, well beyond the timeframe available.

Solix Solution:

Solix ARCHIVEjinni™, the world's only unified information lifecycle platform.

Success Story:

- Completed design development and implementation of data separation in less than 1/3 of the time originally estimated.
- Reduced project costs by 50%.
- Reduced need for team of developers by 40 "man months" in effort.

Arqiva is the leading transmitter and broadcasting company in the UK, and has helped pioneer the technologies of the digital age. Twenty two million homes receive ITV Channel 4 and 5 through Arqiva's national transmitter networks. The company also provides transmission for most UK independent radio stations, both analog and digital, and end-to-end media solutions to the broadcast industry across terrestrial and satellite platforms. Formerly owned by NTL as NTL Broadcast, Arqiva was sold in 2005 for £1.27 billion to a consortium led by Macquarie Communications Infrastructure Group.

The Challenge

The sale of NTL Broadcast to Macquarie Communications required all data be separated from its former parent's Oracle 11i application within a narrowly-defined window of opportunity. Initial estimates revealed a project lead time of approximately nine months and a price tag that far exceeded their budget. IBM and NTL were challenged to find a vendor that could meet their requirements at a fraction of the cost and time. Among their budgetary concerns, stringent deadline and mounting fears of critical data loss, was the need to maintain referential data integrity and ensure Oracle support of the separated instances was not jeopardized.

The Search for Solution

Led by IBM Business Consulting Services, NTL and IBM consultants searched for a solution that could help automate and streamline much of the process involved in data separation so that coding time could be significantly reduced. Finding a solution that already contained a rich metadata knowledge base of Oracle application's complex data model was essential in reducing the project timeframe. In addition, the data needed to be handled appropriately to ensure continued Oracle support for both application instances. After a careful and rigorous evaluation process of the leading archiving vendors, Solix was selected by IBM and validated by NTL's project and technical leads to complete the project.

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After evaluating a range of vendors, Solix expertise was a clear fit for a project of this complexity.

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Vernon Jeffery, IT Director, Arqiva

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Solix enabled a smooth implementation and produced a superb result. I expected this phase of the project to be among the most difficult but was very satisfied with the result. I am impressed with the Solix technology and their high level of commitment.

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Vernon Jeffery,
IT Director, Arqiva

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The Project

Solix and IBM served as partners in the “instance split” project as part of NTL’s demerger. The implementation utilized Solix ARCHIVEjinni™ as the primary tool for extracting NTL Broadcast data from the parent company, NTL Group, to produce a discrete new system for Arqiva. With NTL running Oracle Financials, Projects, and Order Management modules, Solix ARCHIVEjinni’s powerful Configurator, a Web based GUI tool, was used to rapidly define the data separation rules and create a group of custom configurations. Solix ARCHIVEjinni’s unique Knowledge Base, which maintains comprehensive metadata information about Oracle Applications Data Model and Data Structures, validated the rules against its built-in intelligence of Oracle applications. Solix ARCHIVEjinni™ then generated the appropriate code to perform the actual separation. The implementation team carried through several rounds of comprehensive integration testing with multiple test environments to ensure seamless functionality and data integrity.

The Solix Advantage

The Solix ARCHIVEjinni™ Knowledge Base allowed for a smooth and easy execution of the data separation. The data subset programs generated were validated against the Knowledge Base to maintain data consistency and referential integrity of the resulting Oracle Applications instance. This process reduced the project duration by more than 60% and also significantly mitigated the risk of data loss. The entire project was successfully completed on time, within budget and without any negative impact on NTL Group’s Oracle application environment.

With Solix ARCHIVEjinni™

- The data separation project was completed in only 3 months compared to 6-9 months as originally projected
- Project costs were reduced by approximately 50%
- Data integrity was maintained, eliminating potential liabilities and ensuring continued Oracle support of separated instances

About Solix

Solix Technologies, Inc., a leader in Information Life Cycle Management solutions helps businesses improve application performance, reduce storage costs and meet their compliance requirements. As an Oracle Certified Partner, SAP Complementary Software Provider (CSP) and as one of the CMM Level 5 companies worldwide, Solix is dedicated to delivering world-class software with quality at its core. With an extensive global client base, including many Fortune 500 companies, Solix is considered a pioneer in providing a complete infrastructure platform to manage data across all segments (Application, Email and Documents) in an enterprise. For more information about Solix Technologies Inc., visit: <http://www.solix.com>.