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## About AES

AES are one of the world's leading independent power producers, headquartered in Virginia, United States.

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## Challenges

SAP change management, and testing.

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## Solution

IntelliCorp's LiveCompare.

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## Results

- Simpler, faster audits.
  - Full traceability.
  - Effective BPC quality assurance.
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# AES POWER SAP'S BUSINESS PLANNING & CONSOLIDATION WITH LIVECOMPARE

AES are one of the world's leading independent power producers, with sites in 28 countries and a global workforce of 29,000. They have a sophisticated SAP global landscape that comprises multiple SAP clients running ECC 6.0 and 4.7.

"To deal with the large amount of change introduced regularly to our systems, we implemented IntelliCorp's LiveCompare software in 2008," said José Lino, Senior Analyst for SAP Regression Testing at AES.

"LiveCompare eases the pain of change management and regression testing. We use it to automate impact analysis on changes introduced to the production environment as well as for comparing multiple SAP environments, ensuring they are kept in synch."

### Quality Assurance Challenges

In 2009, AES planned to go-live with Business Planning and Consolidation (BPC). BPC is an application used by many companies to effectively plan, budget, forecast, analyze, and report on company performance.

"BPC is very important for AES. It provides budget planning and ensures we comply with financial and regulatory standards," explained José. "Before implementing BPC, we had to make sure we had an effective processes in place to deal with quality assurance."

AES had to be certain that all change requests were requested, approved and documented properly. They had to be sure that no unplanned changes were migrated through to production.

"We carry out a company self-assessment to check that all changes made from one month to the next month are properly supported by a change request," said José. "However, we had no effective method of comparing month to month configuration data."

Configuration is set up on a file system. These files are typically spreadsheets, text files and flat files.

**Key Benefits:**

- Time and resource savings.
- Automated, proactive approach to analysis.
- Improved method of change validation.
- Eliminate risk to the business.
- Prepared for internal and external audits - no surprises!

"The only option we had was to go through more than 54 files and manually compare configuration," stated José. "For files not in spreadsheets, this is almost impossible to do. We needed to find a better way of handling our BPC quality assurance."

**LiveCompare Fully Charged**

"As we'd already invested in LiveCompare to help with our change management challenges, we started to investigate how the tool could be used to address this particular problem," said José. "We wanted to get as much value from the software as possible."

AES worked closely with IntelliCorp's support team to build a new set of workflows to conduct this analysis automatically. LiveCompare is configured to automatically compare files from the present month to previous month. Each line of data is automatically analyzed to detect any changes. Changes are then sent to BPC administrators to check that requests for change were properly approved.

"These workflows compare configuration files and automate the process of validating these files," explained José. "We do this every month and have been doing so since BPC was implemented in 2009. There was no second option for us. "Plan B" would be to do these checks manually. Files would need to be compared one by one. This would have taken a lot of time, a lot of resources. It just wasn't a viable, smart way to work."

**Benefits of Using LiveCompare**

"LiveCompare provides us with complete confidence that all changes on our BPC system have been properly requested, approved and documented," explained José. "When we have internal or external audits, we have the proper documentation."

**Lighting up the Future With LiveCompare**

AES plan to use LiveCompare for their future upgrades as well as license optimization. The security team are interested in leveraging workflows for controlling licenses to reduce license spend.

**Find Out More**

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