



About Coats

Coats plc is an industrial thread and consumer textile crafts business, headquartered in the UK.

Challenge

SAP Consolidation.

Solution

IntelliCorp's LiveCompare.

Results

- Significant time and resource savings.
 - Master data integrity guaranteed.
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COATS FINDS COMMON THREAD IN SUCCESSFUL SAP CONSOLIDATIONS

Coats, the global leader in sewing/specialty thread and needlecraft products, needed to better interweave its distributed SAP environment. With a presence in 70+ countries, more than 160 locations relied upon Coats' SAP platform. Driven by growth and the need to maximize SAP investments, the five global 4.6c landscapes Coats had strung together in 2001 had to be consolidated to improve technical and functional operations.

"Coats' SAP methodology was based on template implementation, but that became complicated with so many instances," explained Joe Thaninayagam, CIO for Coats. "We had to be sure we were working on the same template and that people weren't localizing too much. Consolidation of the five live environments was inevitable, as costs, risks and resources had to be streamlined. Additionally, data management and overall SAP processes needed improvement."

"Coats had been using some SAP tools to compare data across clients, but they gave only basic information and did not cover all aspects as well as IntelliCorp: an example is the depth LiveCompare provides around scripts and data identification," said Manish Rathod, SAP Technical Manager at Coats. "Once Senior Management and IT saw the features of LiveCompare, and how IntelliCorp compared to SAP and other third-party tools, it was a unanimous decision to make LiveCompare a part of our SAP strategy."

Coats and IntelliCorp Knit Consolidation Strategy

Coats' five 4.6c landscapes were in North America, South America, Europe, East Asia and South Asia. Distributed SAP environments quickly became inefficient. Coats had limited people, resources and tools to perform strategic and operational activities, such as audits and change management. For example, it was challenging to simply ship goods from South America to Europe, due to different SAP implementations (e.g. inconsistent inventory data and processing details). Additional time and effort were spent trying to plan for that, let alone complete the business requirement, and that slowed business activities.

In the following years, the expansion of Coats' network infrastructure allowed for consolidation. IT's objective was to consolidate the five regional environments into one development, one test and two production environments.

In 2008, Rathod looked specifically for an automated solution to further SAP ALM and immediately address consolidation issues. After evaluating SAP analysis tools across the market, including those from SAP, he recommended IntelliCorp LiveCompare™ to Senior Management and IT.

Key Benefits:

- Significant time, risk and resource costs averted.
- Seamless business transition through ongoing consolidation project.
- Improved technical and operational aspects of SAP ALM.
- Unified global environment to streamline efforts and ensure accuracy.
- Established a new methodology for pending migration to ECC 6.0.

Stitching Together the Consolidation Initiative

LiveCompare evaluates the as-is SAP environment with the new (to-be) version to identify the impact of every change. LiveCompare's unique system of intelligent impact analysis automatically generates answers to key SAP ALM questions, eliminating risky manual effort and providing an unmatched ability to identify change, as well as its impact. Smart filters make LiveCompare intelligent, eradicating changes that have no impact. Resulting detailed reports cater to the needs of entire project teams, from CIOs to developers. The software is a powerful, easy to use analytical instrument that's quick to implement and inexpensive to run.

Coats leveraged LiveCompare to identify every inconsistency and change across its five landscapes. LiveCompare was used to interrogate all systems and rectify both data and processes. This level of control empowered Coats with the know-how to quickly and easily implement standards across all other areas as well. Changes and owners were tracked, information and results were recorded.

"LiveCompare saved an enormous amount of time and resources," added Joe Thaninayagam. "Without LiveCompare, it's impossible to accurately track and record every change at the most technical level."

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Manish Rathod recalls how the data centers also had to be moved before consolidation could officially begin. LiveCompare was used to synchronize and guarantee master data integrity.

"Getting our global businesses to work in the same way also gave Coats the flexibility and agility to move people around, and also expand business opportunities, as the systems are the same," continued Manish Rathod. "Now that SAP is working more efficiently for Coats, we also maximize hardware use, which saves cost on that end."

Coats is "very happy" with LiveCompare and has made it an integral part of IT's global SAP ALM strategy. Following the consolidation project, Coats will use LiveCompare to support its migration to ECC 6.0.

Find Out More

www.intellicorp.com
sales-info@intellicorp.com
 USA 408-454-3500 or EMEA +44 (0)1454 629 605