Pet Food Experts Drives Success Through Data Instead of Intuition

As a nationwide pet supply distributor with over 400 employees and 29 years of service, Pet Food Experts doesn’t just deliver pet food; it leverages its depth of experience and broad range of vendors to empower its customers success.

The challenge
Pet Food Experts original cloud data warehouse architecture was based on Amazon Web Services (AWS), Snowflake, and Tableau. However, after the initial setup, it quickly became apparent that the their solution wasn’t easy to scale without a lot of further investment. New data sources (including multiple on-prem SQL databases) could not be added easily to the warehouse and different data sources lived in different places, making cross-analysis prohibitive. They ended up relying on their ERP system as the source of truth for reporting. This in turn created performance issues, as generating Tableau reports slowed down the ERP system and disrupted operations. They needed a data warehousing solution that could integrate with their on-premise systems, easily and gracefully handle changing requirements, and work with Tableau, but that wouldn’t break the bank.

The approach
Hundreds of tables from disparate branches of the business and SaaS products now live in a single location, making cross-comparison much easier and allowing their analysts to develop a holistic view of the business. It also serves as a source of truth for powering new investments in customer focused applications like eCommerce and OPAL, an order processing system also developed with Cloudbakers. As a result of this effort, Pet Food Experts’ name continues to ring true with their customers, and they’ve maintained their edge in a competitive and rapidly changing industry.

The results
- Success driven by data rather than experience & intuition
- 80% reduction in the upfront development cost per data source
- 60% reduction in operating costs

“It’s made a huge impact on our business. The headaches we were experiencing with our previous warehouse are gone, and now we’re at a point where additional data sources can be added in a matter of a couple of weeks or even days, instead of a couple months or longer.”

– Barry Silver, Director of Information Technology