

Power and Water Utility Company Cognos TM1 Planning with Maximo

Challenge

The Utility needed to improve their ability to plan for and analyse maintenance costs and capital expenditures, over a three year budget horizon.

Solution

Tridant designed a planning model using Cognos TM1. It synchronised data and metadata on a daily basis, and from other source systems including Oracle Financials.

Benefit

The Cognos TM1 solution provided the utility with the ability to forecast and plan for maintenance costs and capital expenditures, with more transparency of costs than had ever been available.

Background

A large Australian Utility provider serving more than 85,000 customers over 1.3 million square kilometres, needed to manage their assets of more than \$1 billion. They had employed IBM to implement Maximo, an asset management system.

The challenge

Previously the Utility was reliant on extracting asset data into spreadsheets, manually manipulating them into relevant reports, and finally into budgets and forecasts. This process was time consuming, error prone, and inefficient.

The Utility needed a better way to compile the capital expenditure budget and maintenance plan. They needed to update their forecast each quarter using the latest data from Maximo as well as input from business users.

This required a better tool that could be integrated seamlessly with Maximo, but also offer features like; maintaining versions of the plans for comparison, facilitating user input, managing security, instant calculations and consolidations, flexible hierarchies, and the ability have reports generated in real time and distributed to any device without manual intervention.

In short, the Utility needed to improve their ability to plan for and analyse maintenance costs and capital expenditures, over a three year budget horizon.

The maintenance plan and capital expenditure budget are a vital part of improving overall business planning for the Utility. IBM's planning software, Cognos TM1 proved to be the ideal system.

Here, IBM partnered with Tridant, a multi-award winning Premier Business Partner with offices throughout Australia. Tridant took on the task of designing a solution using IBM Cognos TM1, to work seamlessly with IBM's Maximo asset management system.

The solution

Tridant designed a planning model using Cognos TM1. It synchronised data and metadata with Maximo on a daily basis, and from other source systems including Oracle Financials.

Tridant's Cognos TM1 solution compiled the expenditure budget and maintenance plan in real time across thousands of assets and tens of thousands of project activities.

Solution components

- Cognos TM1
- IBM Maximo

Managing Consultant, Nimrod Kuti

Working with Maximo and the IBM team gave us a great platform for future Maximo and Asset Management solutions.

Tridant's Cognos TM1 solution included many essential features. The solution compiled the capital expenditure budget and maintenance plan in real time across thousands of assets and tens of thousands of project activities.

It enabled detailed analysis through the use of management hierarchies and powerful querying and visual tools, to answer almost any question imaginable. It controlled workflow to track progress and user security to control access.

Because TM1 is built on in-memory technology, the users were able to spread costs over future periods with just a few clicks (an essential part of the plan) and update drivers and assumptions - modelling their scenarios in real-time.

A maintenance plan is made up of planned and corrective servicing costs. Tridant's solution using Cognos TM1 offered users the ability to input revised assumptions about timings and costs at a programme and asset level.

The solution enabled intuitive and beautiful reports to be distributed to any device, wherever and whenever they were needed. Tridant also trained business users so they were able to create their own reports, using the system directly to its full potential.

The benefits

The Cognos TM1 solution featuring an interface to Maximo, provided the Utility with the ability to forecast and plan for maintenance costs and capital expenditures, with more transparency of costs than had ever been available.

It automated manual tasks, increasing and improving accuracy, and reducing the time to create a plan. It also improved collaboration through workflow and made comparisons between versions and periods robust through enforcement of defined and tested business rules.

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The solution automated daily synchronisation with Maximo, so that it was no longer necessary to extract the data out of Maximo and into spreadsheets. The Cognos TM1 solution reduced errors by automating the consolidation of plans over thousands of projects and assets in real time.

Overall, the Cognos TM1 planning and forecasting solution in conjunction with Maximo provided powerful analytics and reporting, leading to better and more timely decisions, reduced cycle time and greater visibility of unforeseeable costs.

Future Opportunities

The Cognos TM1 planning solution is the perfect foundation for a range of integrated advanced analytical applications. Such as predictive algorithms for maintenance costs and long range simulation modelling like Montecarlo analysis. It also offers power users the ability to use visualisation tools for reporting and analysis.

As a result, the business is spending more time on analysis and less time on producing reports, which has improved their understanding of the business.

Why Tridant

Tridant had a genuine depth of talent and experience in their team, offering the complete range of skills that were needed to deliver a successful solution. From technical depth with Cognos TM1 and other IBM Business Analytic applications resulted in a design that leveraged the powers of these tools to their maximum potential.

Tridant consultants brought a solid methodology to the project which reduced risk. Tridant Solutions Implementations Methodology (TSIM) entails a step by step process following scope, design, project plan, build, test, and finally implementation. TSIM focusses on communication between the consultants and the client, nurturing client satisfaction.

About Tridant

Tridant is a leader in the design and implementation of technology solutions optimised for planning, reporting and analytics. In short, data driving decision making.

Implement a best-practice budgeting system, human capital planning, or a sales forecasting model. Deploy executive scorecards, or mobile reports designed to captivate your audience, an enterprise reporting solution. We can help you predict what your customers will buy next, or detect patterns hidden within your data. We can show you a better way to compile your external narrative reports saving you time and avoiding exposure to unintended errors.

All our solutions are tightly integrated with key business processes and source systems, they are designed to work in harmony. Our services are integrated in the same way, we can support your investment from beginning to end, on-premise or fully remote and in the cloud, it's your choice.

Whatever the challenge, whatever the technology, we help our clients leverage their data assets to improve performance, increase revenue, reduce risk and make their businesses more responsive to market opportunities and threats.

Since inception Tridant has delivered successful data-driven technology solutions to public, private and government organisations. Find out why six out of the ten largest companies in Australia work with Tridant.

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