



Somentec Software Creates New Connections Using Mertech's Flex2SQL Driver

HIGHLIGHTS

- Switched from proprietary database to Oracle with zero code changes or database restructuring
- Offered input and helped Mertech refine its unique Flex2SQL driver
- Created a lasting partnership that's still going strong over 20 years later

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Christian Hartlieb

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Background

Founded in 1994 and headquartered in Langen, Germany, Somentec Software offers specialized billing and management software solutions to energy and water providers, with over 100 installations throughout the country.

Business Challenge

Somentec's XAP product allows utility providers to efficiently track and manage consumers' electricity, gas, water, waste, and heat usage, apply specialized regulations unique to each industry, and bill accordingly.

To keep up with its customers' demands and open up expansion into new markets, Somentec decided that offering XAP alongside its own proprietary database solution was no longer good enough. They needed to connect XAP with industry-standard relational databases, such as Microsoft SQL Server or Oracle, because that's what customers both old and new were asking for. Their desire to link XAP with modern databases led them to Mertech.

"We chose Mertech because they were the first, and only, company to offer us a stable Oracle driver," says Somentec's Managing Director, Christian Hartlieb. "They also continuously improved the driver's performance and functionality. Performance was, and continues to be, very important to us."

Solution: Mertech's Flex2SQL Driver

Somentec approached Mertech when the company was just beginning to develop its Flex2SQL database connectivity solution. Somentec's input helped shape the product and improve its performance. It also created a lasting partnership between the two companies.

"We've continued to use Mertech because the company provides good, direct, professional support," said Hartlieb. "Mertech's industry knowledge, and the quality of their products, has served as the basis of a great long-term relationship between our companies."

Impact and Future

With Flex2SQL, Somentec was able to easily transition XAP to function alongside Oracle and Microsoft SQL server, without changing any of their existing code or their overall database structure. This solution didn't exist prior to Mertech entering the market. Since starting out with Somentec, Mertech's been able to offer Flex2SQL, as well as the rest of its database connectivity products, to other ISVs around the globe.

