

University of Strathclyde migrates to SAP BusinessObjects Edge



Executive Summary

Founded in 1796, the University of Strathclyde was granted a Royal Charter in 1964 and is now the third largest university in Scotland. At the time of its Royal Charter, the Glasgow based university had 4,000 full-time students. Since then it has expanded significantly and now has 15,000 full-time students and a further 15,000 attending part-time courses.

In common with other leading educational establishments, the University of Strathclyde is focused heavily not only on attracting students through the provision of excellent and diverse academic qualifications, but also on highly effective and efficient operations. Indeed, given the challenging economic position faced by Higher Education providers, there is now a pressing need to have rapid access to excellent information resources to support the

evolving requirements of education and research. It is, for example, critical to have an accurate and up to date view of student admissions during October when the situation is changing daily.

In addition, universities also have to produce annual reports for the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) that encompass numerous information requirements ranging from student admissions numbers and staffing to financial reports.

In common with many organisations, the University of Strathclyde's data is located across many transactional systems, including human resources, finance, planning and admissions systems. Having used SAP BusinessObjects for a decade to report from these systems, in 2008 the

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university realised that by publishing reports on the web it could provide a faster route to key operational information for senior managers and reduce the reliance on IT.

The university turned to SAP BusinessObjects partner Edenhouse Solutions for their experience in delivering migrations and training, and their proven ability in helping organisations exploit the full functionality of the business intelligence technology.

In addition to managing the migration of over 50 users and hundreds of reports to SAP BusinessObjects Edge, Edenhouse delivered training to end users, the system administrator and IT staff. This has enabled the University of Strathclyde to become more self-sufficient in its internal training delivery; providing staff with the expertise to deliver training to a user base expected to expand as personnel begin to exploit the benefits of web based self-service access to reports.

Edenhouse also worked with the university to understand the new features within SAP BusinessObjects and assess how best to leverage the new information resource to

achieve improvements to operational efficiency. This has enabled the university to exploit key features of SAP BusinessObjects that include automated scheduling of reports and user led report generation, with users now empowered to create, alter and refresh their own reports on demand, without reliance upon IT.

The University of Strathclyde now has a flexible reporting system that enables users to access the information they need as and when they need it. From automated report scheduling to real-time report refresh and web-based report publishing, the university now has a reporting tool that not only supports day-to-day operations but also provides the potential for greater access to real-time information for senior managers. In the longer term, the university plans to expand its use of SAP BusinessObjects to deliver trend analysis and in depth performance monitoring.

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