



Central Bank Increases Productivity with the Informatica Platform

“The institutional objective was to improve access to stored data, reduce response time in order to answer internal requests, and thus be able to provide the required information. The Informatica solution has brought benefits to the organization and paid off its investment. We are satisfied with the project implemented with the help of Informatica because the partnership has been effective and the results are positive.”

— Augusto Ornelas Filho, Integration Chief,
IT Department, Central Bank of Brazil

About the Central Bank of Brazil

The Central Bank of Brazil is the public institution responsible for preparing and implementing the country's monetary and credit policy to ensure the stability of the currency's purchasing power. It is a government bank similar to the U.S. Federal Reserve. But in addition it controls the operations of commercial banks of the country along with 6,000 financial institutions by analyzing risk, liquidity, and financial operations patterns. The Bank also regulates and supervises the financial system, so that it remains sound and efficient.

Challenges

To modernize, streamline, and refine its management processes, as well as obtain more detailed financing information from its banking system clients: These were the challenges facing the Central Bank of Brazil when it invested in Informatica's data integration platform.

- In the bank's former system, all data transfers occurred through application programs, without having a standard among the teams responsible. In that setting, the IT team was unable to attain the response time desired by the Central Bank's core business.
- Dealing with the large volume of data at the Central Bank is always a sensitive as well as strategic task. Currently, the needs of bank operations, such as credit and audit operations, are intensifying as the number of financial transactions grows on a large scale because of Brazil's economic stability.
- The Central Bank needed to invest in tools that would improve the productivity of its IT team, facilitate application changes in database transfers, streamline the implementation of new business rules, and make relevant and reliable information available at the right time.

Solution

The Central Bank entered an international bidding process for a data integration and transfer solution; they chose Informatica® to build a data integration platform, using Informatica PowerCenter®, Informatica PowerExchange® for ADABAS, and Informatica PowerExchange for DB2. The platform served the initial project requirements and was subsequently expanded to other projects for the organization.

“The objectives was to have a platform that would allow data access, independent of the resident platform, and reduce its handling and transfer time, thereby increasing the speed with which information is produced,” says Augusto Ornelas Filho, Integration Chief of the Central Bank.

They chose Informatica for a number of advantages it offers:

- PowerCenter allows data integration in real time (on-line) or by request (on-demand) by means of an architecture designed for services oriented architecture (SOA), with total flexibility and the scalability needed to serve the diverse data integration requirements of a corporate environment.
- The single, fully integrated PowerCenter platform includes security and auditing functions, enabling the access and distribution of information needed to improve the quality of operating processes as well as corporate and departmental decision making. In addition, it supplies information to other financial institutions via the Internet.
- PowerExchange offers on-demand access to data from all major company data systems, including mainframe, medium-size, and general file systems, making them available without the need to manually code data extraction programs. Fully integrated with PowerCenter, PowerExchange simplifies data integration even for more complex data sources.

Results

After four years in production at the Central Bank, the Informatica platform has also helped to standardize processes among the various IT teams responsible for handling data and to improve existing documentation.

According to Augusto Ornelas Filho, "Even though the platform's primary use is aimed at the loading process of the data warehouse environment, it was also possible to extend

its benefits to managers responsible for the transactional corporate environment, where data handling with programs is gradually migrating to this new solution."

The following results demonstrate other benefits of the Informatica solution at the bank:

- An estimated 30 percent increase in productivity because of the Informatica graphic interface, which improved the system's appearance and reduced the need to code data handling programs
- Flexibility in modifications and in major systems processing for the bank's operations, with a 50 percent reduction in time for documenting these processes
- Implementation of new projects using the solutions from Informatica, with a decrease in the time frames for their execution compared to conventional platforms
- Greater facility to create new products or update existing products at the Central Bank
- Better use of infrastructure resources and better distribution of functions. Each business area has technical people to translate the needs of the area to the IT department. With Informatica, these technical people are able to do the work for which they used to depend on the IT department.
- Scalability for the daily increase in volume of data received and the handling of highly complex changes. Every day there is an increase in the volume of information that the bank receives and also changes in the process - Informatica solutions worked very well and supported these needs.

- Increased operational security from Informatica, transporting the data securely and in encrypted form, according to various international rules, such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.
- Integrated data transfer procedure, shared by the Central Bank's IT area, enabling the bank to make greater use of the professional efforts of those involved in projects
- Greater ease of access to information because when all processes are documented, the Informatica solution allows inquiries through a metadata portal

"We are satisfied with the project developed in partnership with Informatica Corporation because we received all the support we needed to attain the benefits," Augusto Ornelas Filho says.

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