

Data Consolidation Implementation Services

Informatica Professional Services

Duration: Dependent on project scope

IPS Staff Level: Technical Engagement Manager, Senior Consultant, Lead, Developer

Problem:

The need to drive down IT costs and bolster efficiencies has resulted in an increasing trend towards business application consolidation. Organizations are increasingly taking on application and platform consolidation to help rationalize IT infrastructure, reduce IT cost and complexity, and take advantage of newer technologies.

When consolidating existing systems, IT must deal with data—complex, diverse, and large volumes of data that may have different semantics between different geographies or lines of business. Typically, that data resides in existing legacy systems and must be migrated into new, consolidated systems—a complicated and potentially high-risk process.

Data consolidation—a critical and time consuming phase of an application implementation, upgrade, or instance consolidation—is often an underestimated subtask of the entire application project. In fact, moving the data can often consume up to 40 percent of a project's entire budget.

Data consolidation is often time consuming and complex because:

- Complex legacy systems require scarce specialist skill sets
- Lack of documentation of customized systems results in data semantics discrepancies between what should be identical systems
- Data quality is poor—riddled with significant redundancies and inconsistencies—in terms of master data such as customer, product and partner

Solution:

Informatica has been committed to data integration since 1996. Our expertise was forged through thousands of successful data integration projects. And, because we have always been platform-neutral, we have developed premier solutions for consolidating data from any source to any target system.

Our strategy incorporates:

- **Methodology**—A combination of best practices and techniques developed from practical experience
- **Expertise**—Veteran consultants, seasoned in data integration and specialists in data consolidation
- **Tools**—Proprietary software and templates to speed the process and minimize errors

Methodology

The Informatica Velocity Migration Methodology (VMM) is a proven process that incorporates best practices to accelerate development, minimize staffing requirements, and lower total cost. Applying this innovative approach to data migration, we have identified techniques that can deliver dramatic productivity gains.

Our philosophy for a data consolidation project is to convert early, often, and with real production data.

Early. We convert and consolidate data early to find out the scope and magnitude of the data quality issues. Early conversion also serves as a benchmark to estimate the length and scope of the entire project. And finally, with early conversion, business users see the value at the outset.

Often. Our approach is iterative. The traditional approach to data consolidation has been to deliver a “big bang” conversion. This often results in overlooked business and technical issues with a consequent major rework of the plan. The iterative approach allows for continuous tuning of the migration project until all issues are thoroughly addressed. In addition, not only do users gain increased value with each iteration, but they gain confidence in the migration. This lowers the risk and makes go/no go decisions easier.

With Real Production Data. We want to get real data into the consolidated system immediately. There are a number of advantages to this approach. Technical staff can use real data to test interfaces. Business users can use familiar data for training, for the system integration, and for user acceptance testing. We have developed a way to use production data without affecting the performance or results of production systems.

Expertise

Informatica Professional Services consultants are seasoned experts at designing strategies to optimize developer productivity and accelerate the development of Informatica components. Working side by side with our customers’ teams, Informatica consultants provide steady direction and sound technical expertise to plan the project thoroughly and keep it moving smoothly. At the same time, they transfer to your staff the wisdom they have accumulated from hundreds of data integration projects.

Drawing on our proven, 13-year track record of innovation and leadership, Informatica has defined the standard for data integration that has delivered competitive advantage and operational excellence to leading Global 1000 companies and government organizations.

Tools

Informatica Professional Services has developed a set of reusable data consolidation assets based on the Informatica platform that typically automates 50 percent of development and testing in an average data consolidation project. The use of such techniques in application consolidation projects has a substantial impact on resource requirements for development and testing.

For more information, contact Informatica Professional Services at ips@informatica.com



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