CASE STUDY

InfoCamere Improves Economic Insights in Italy with Pentaho

103 Italian Chambers of Commerce Migrate to Pentaho Business Analytics for Market Intelligence and Efficient Administration

About

InfoCamere is the IT consortium of the Italian Chamers of Commerce. It has developed and manages the national data transmission system connecting 105 Chambers of Commerce and their 300 branch offices via a high speed, high security network. Through its ongoing commitment to technological innovation and services, InfoCamere seeks to strengthen the role of the Chambers as a driving force for local economic growth and making the way public administrative bodies deal with busienss more efficient.

In Italy, the Chambers of Commerce play a vital role in providing administrative support for businesses across all industry sectors. One example is helping new companies set up and maintain their presences on the Italian Companies Register. The data from the Companies Register is very useful for forecaseting economic trends at the local and regional level such as indicating an economic upturn by analyzing the number of new companies in a region. Being able to analyze this data in real-time enables the Chambers and regional administrations to prepare adequately for both growth and downturn scenarios.

"InfoCamere"

Società Consortile di Informatica
delle Camere di Commercio Italiane per azioni

QUICK FACTS

- Industry: IT Consortium (Business)
- Headquarters: Rome, Italy
- Website: infocamere.it
- Products/Services: Pentaho Business Analytics (data integration, analysis and reporting capabilities).

Challenges

Infocamere had used business intelligence (BI) applications the global and local level. Globally, InfoCamere used a system called Movimprese to monitor and analyze data from Companies Register.

The system aggregates the data from all the Chambers every quarter and publishes a report that compares the data against previous quarters and against the same period in previous years. Locally, InfoCamere had developed BI applications for each Chamber that report on internal, operational, systems and 'case' data – the details of the transactions between the Chambers and its business customers.

InfoCamere built the original BI applications with proprietary software, but by 2008 they decided to evaluate more modern, user-friendly open source alternatives including Jaspersoft, Pentaho and

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> Our reporting and analysis requirements are very complex on the data side but thanks to the user-friendly interface, the Chambers of Commerce can be self-sufficient with reporting in line with individual requirements. This enables each Chamber to support their local business communities efficiently and appropriately.

Spagli BI. InfoCamere's evaluation criteria included integration capabilities, speed, ease of use (interface), ad hoc reporting and OLAP capabilities, ultimately selecting Pentaho as the best fit.

Solutions

InfoCamere started a step-by-step migration to the Pentaho Business Analytics Enterprise Edition in March 2009. In the first step the local BI applications were migrated to Pentaho and the local staff members of the Chambers were trained. Once the deployment was running successfully, Infocamere migrated Movimprese to Pentaho and trained the people in charge of this report.

Next, InfoCamere plans to add the Pentaho Business Analytics data mining capability to help the Chambers of Commerce better predict and plan for corporate tax payments.

InfoCamere uses the following Pentaho Business Analytics components and developer tools:

- Data Integration
- Workbench
- Aggregate designer
- Report designer
- Additionally, depending on the need: analysis, dashboard designer, aggregation tool, console.

Open Source Environment – InfoCamere uses an open source friendly environment running Pentaho Business Analytics on Red Hat Linux, JBoss Clustering, and MySQL Database, on two dedicated Intel dual processor servers.

Results

- Managing massive, complex data sets – On the local level – the data set is 40GB and forecasted to grow by 10GB annually. There are five different data tables in the warehouse, the largest of which is 14GB with 34 million rows. It also contains 11 'fact' tables, the largest of which has three million rows and is comprised of 64 aggregated tables. InfoCamere runs 12 different types of queries on this data. On the global level, Movimprese data is 300 GB accumulated over the last five years and predicted to grow by 80 GB annually. It includes 11 fact tables, each approximately 5.5 million records with 75 aggregated tables. The analysis has 35 dimensions and very complex hierarchies.
- Easy ad hoc reporting – Each Chamber of Commerce can run reports on operational data whenever needed whether it is ad hoc, daily, weekly or monthly. The Movimprese reports are run quarterly.
- User-friendly interface – More than 500 people, many of which are non-IT, have been trained on the system and use it regularly. This includes three to four people within each Chamber of Commerce.

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Summary

InfoCamere, the IT consortium of the Italian Chambers of Commerce, decided in 2008 to migrate its proprietary business intelligence platform to an open source solution and evaluated Jaspersoft, Pentaho and Spagli BI, among others. InfoCamere chose Pentaho Business Analytics for its data access and integration capabilities, speed, ease-of-use, ad hoc reporting and OLAP capabilities. The Italian Chambers of Commerce use Pentaho to get a clear vision of the state of economy within the regions, enabling better local support during times of both crisis and opportunity. Currently 500 users within the Chambers of Commerce use Pentaho for reporting and analysis. The business users value above all the ease-of-use and the fast performance whereas the IT department value the support, tools, integration and OLAP capabilities. In the future InfoCamere plans to add Pentaho's data mining capabilities to analyze corporate tax payments to ensure more efficient revenue collection.

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