

Cheshire County Council improves reporting performance by using Data Replication and Transformation Tool



Set in the North West of England in the historic city of Chester, Cheshire County Council needed to find a way to ensure that critical information was available to in-house project teams in an easily accessible format without having to invest in major infrastructure enhancements.

THE CHALLENGE

One of the Council's Project Teams was developing its own reports from a Gupta SQLBase database, but found that in doing so, the database performance substantially reduced, often causing the main application to grind to a halt. To avoid this issue, the process was stopped from running during the day. This meant that the staff had to remember to start the reports running as they left the office for the evening. Occasionally this led to issues with the overnight database backup running very slowly leading to system lockups in the morning.

John Hamstead, Programme Manager, Information Services Team, decided that the way around this problem would be to separate the reports from the other data and to run them independently. To do this, the team had to find an effective way to replicate data.

THE APPROACH

John claims that they literally stumbled across HiT Software's DBMoto whilst searching for a solution using Google. "When we downloaded and evaluated a test version of HiT Software's DBMoto from the website, our team found the product simple to use, effective and capable of providing what we needed to satisfy the project team's requirement".

THE SOLUTION

DBMoto - Data Replication and Transformation

DBMoto provides data replication and transformation for an organisation's enterprise server and desktop needs. Business applications depend on data from multiple databases and DBMoto is the solution for enterprises that need to move data between database platforms and understands that fast data delivery between relational database platforms yields better performing applications.

"DBMoto is a piece of cake ... very easy to use."

John Hamstead
Programme Manager,
Cheshire County Council

DSCallards Case Study

DBMoto was used in Cheshire County Council as a tool to separate critical reports and run them independently to improve performance issues

DBMoto performs refresh and real-time data replication for enterprise server and desktop replication needs. All major database platforms such as IBM DB2 UDB (including System i5/iSeries/AS400 and zOS), Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server, Sybase ASE, SQL Anywhere, Cloudscape, MySQL, Informix, Ingres, PostgreSQL, Microsoft Access, Gupta SQLBase, Firebird and Solid are supported.

Cheshire County Council deployed DBMoto to replicate data from the Gupta SQLBase database to a Microsoft SQL Server database. In this environment the data is available to users to interact without the performance impact to the production system as previously experienced. This has been of particular benefit to the project sponsors, the reporting team who can now deliver reports on request.

THE RESULTS

The IT Team opted to replicate the data overnight and now that the replications have been created, DBMoto requires very little maintenance.

Shortly after deploying DBMoto, a second requirement emerged within the Council to link the same Gupta SQLBase database to an Oracle database. It was felt that DBMoto was a far more robust tool for the job than the available ODBC driver. The team looked to DBMoto as a solution and found that the overnight copy of the data was adequate to meet the business need.

John went on to say, "So what began as one project evolved into two and we now have two project teams using the same software. Although the overall set-up costs and ease of use were more relevant deciding factors in this instance than the cost of the product, the price was still extremely competitive. Ultimately, however, we found DBMoto was very simple to set up and simple to use".

DBMoto was successfully implemented without the need for external resources which made it possible for Cheshire County Council to build their solution within budget.

WHY DSCALLARDS?

DSCallards has been delivering leading specialist software tools and services, such as HiT Software, for over fifteen years, helping thousands of organisations through support, training and consulting services to deliver business innovation.

WHY HIT SOFTWARE?

HiT Software is a leading software provider of secure middleware data access and data replication products. Since 1994, HiT Software's products have enabled customers from large, medium and small companies to integrate relational data in mission-critical applications across all industries. Visit www.hitsw.com.

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