



Verizon Enables Real-time Data Lake for Financial Reporting and Analytics Using Attunity and Hortonworks Solutions

HIGHLIGHTS

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All divisional and corporate financial reporting/BI teams now have access to real-time ERP data in one place.



Data is now uploaded to the data lake in an hour instead of overnight, ensuring the freshest data is available for improved decision making.



Middle-tier Oracle database was eliminated reducing maintenance time and costs.



IT team requires fewer developer resources to manage data integration into Hadoop.

"Ingesting data from SAP and other sources into our data lake in under an hour is invaluable. Our financial analytics and modeling teams now have instant visibility for real-time reporting across the business."

ARVIND RAJAGOPALAN, DIRECTOR - GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, VERIZON

As one of the largest providers of information technology services in the world, Verizon is a multi-billion dollar company that ranks 13th on the Fortune 500 and has over 161,000 employees. They offer Internet protocol, data, voice, and wireless communication solutions to both businesses and federal government agencies.

To increase efficiency with their financial reporting, Verizon's business leaders wanted a cost-effective solution to empower them with actionable information. Verizon's Global Technology Services (GTS) team decided to create new reporting and analytical tools, and select a real-time data ingest solution that would enable them to move data from several sources into a data lake and provide business intelligence in real-time.

The Challenge: Real-time Data Ingestion

Job one was to accelerate the multi-source integration process. "Getting data in realtime for our financial reports was very time-consuming and labor intensive," said Arvind Rajagopalan, Global Technology Services (GTS) at Verizon. "We were using a multi-tier process to pull data from our SAP ERP and PeopleSoft systems and to integrate that into our Hadoop data lake.

This approach was extremely challenging and our financial teams often had to wait a whole day to see data changes, which was not sustainable for the business."

The Verizon GTS team had one PeopleSoft system, as well as two SAP ERP systems that delivered financial information and business transactions throughout the enterprise. Ingesting the PeopleSoft and SAP data into the data lake had these challenges:



The GTS team used several separate utilities to capture source changes, which added unnecessary complexity and time while creating higher risk for error



The alternative data replication solution from Oracle failed to support SAP pool and cluster tables, which was a key requirement to make the solution work. It also required a complex middle tier to populate the data lake, which added an additional layer of labor, time, and cost to the initiative



Extra processing and delays were undermining the accuracy of daily reports.



ARVIND RAJAGOPALAN,
DIRECTOR, GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY
SERVICES, VERIZON

The Solution: Attunity Replicate and the Hortonworks Data Platform

Verizon's IT team began searching for solutions that could ingest data in real time, understand the SAP data dictionary and perform real-time change data capture (CDC) on the complex SAP pool and cluster tables. They tested Attunity Replicate with its CDC technology, which successfully moved Verizon's SAP ECC data and PeopleSoft data in real-time into their Hortonworks data lake. The Verizon GTS team found Attunity Replicate to be simple, universal and fast, helping them to:

- Centralize all disparate ERP data into a Hortonworks data lake which improved financial insights and analytics across Verizon divisions
- Capture and translate data from a complex SAP format and easily export it via an intuitive user interface – completed 10 times faster compared to previously tried alternatives
- Replicate SAP data to all major targets, including databases, data warehouses, or the Hortonworks Data Platform (HDP)
- Continuously update the data lake using CDC technology to ensure the freshest data is available in real time for improved decision making.

"We focus outward on the customer, not inward. We make it easy for customers to do business with us, by listening, anticipating and responding to their needs," says Arvind Rajagopalan, Director Global Technology Services, Verizon.

The Results: Successful Data Reporting and Analytics in Real time

All divisional and corporate financial reporting/business intelligence (BI) teams now have access to ERP data in one place. As data changes, it is automatically uploaded to the data lake in less than an hour rather than overnight so that the most up-to-date data is available for daily reports.

The Verizon GTS team was able to eliminate the middle-tier Oracle database, reducing maintenance time and cost, and easing the strain on valuable developers.

As more value is generated by delivering real-time insights and analytics in combining various data sets with the financials, the GTS team expects to discover new insights by bringing additional data sets to the data lake. This will allow Verizon to make more strategic decisions for different parts of the business and will accelerate key business initiatives. "Attunity Replicate has helped make our data universally available within our enterprise. It is also helping us generate more business value from it," concluded Arvind Rajagopalan.

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