



BIRT and ActuateOne Empower Public Agency with Improved Insight Over Education Abroad

When your mission as a public agency is coordinating and managing funds for hundreds of different organizations internationally, having ready access to accurate business management information is crucial in ensuring consistency and efficiency.

This public agency has responsibility for coordinating and supporting almost 500 educational institutions that teach language curriculum abroad. Its mission includes managing the finance and HR operations of institutions in more than 100 countries – encompassing contracts and payroll for over 20,000 employees, as well as the coordination of school fees and grants.

Until embarking on a major Business Intelligence (BI) project with Actuate, the agency had to rely on manual data extraction from six disparate IT systems to pull together the information required to make related decisions. This process was not only time- and resource-consuming, but limiting in its support for fuller comparisons and analysis, and open to the risk of poor accuracy. To address the situation, the organization sought a more efficient and reliable way of collating and analyzing critical business information – one that would meet individual users' needs, and reduce reliance

on the IT department for the production of reports.

The Actuate Solution

Following enthusiastic feedback from other public entities that use the ActuateOne platform based on BIRT open source technology, the agency approached Actuate with a view to implementing a 'true BI' solution. Their goal was to empower up to 150 users to create their own up-to-date reports and analysis quickly and easily.

The chosen solution combines two complementary open source technologies: Talend and BIRT. Talend was used to build a data warehouse for six different IT systems while the ActuateOne platform manages data analysis and visualization. The fact that both solutions are based on open source offered the agency maximum flexibility to combine the capabilities it needed.

As users were familiar with compiling data using Excel spreadsheets, it was important that the project was implemented progressively over several phases to ensure maximum user buy-in. In a phased approach, Actuate initially introduced simple data

> COMPANY PROFILE

Public agency responsible for coordinating and supporting educational institutions

> CHALLENGES

- Questionable data accuracy due to spreadsheet exchanges from different systems
- Business users overly dependent on IT for reports, with long lead times
- Difficulty accessing data, limited visibility for decision making

> SOLUTION

ActuateOne with Talend

> BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Business users can perform analysis, monitor performance
- Easy information navigation with dashboards and drilldown to underlying detail
- Cross-functional teams can look collectively at the same data
- Faster system performance, requiring fewer IT resources

extraction, progressing to a more integrated tool – a summary dashboard with the ability to ‘drill down’ into more detail as needed. Each implementation phase incorporated customized user training, with an Actuate partner further helping the agency to get the most from the BIRT technology.

The Talend data warehouse solution retrieves data from six systems: HR IS; payroll; scholarship management; accounting; budgeting; and management training. The ActuateOne platform, which enables data interaction, collaboration and report self-service, enables the agency to create data cubes exploiting consolidated data from the Talend data warehouse. This solution empowers the users to do a number of things: export reports in Excel using a Live Excel export capability; perform cross-data and custom-built analyses with the BIRT Analyzer; build online interactive reports and custom Dashboards; and share reports.

Benefits of Actuate

Since deploying the solution, 150 designated business users are able to promptly serve themselves with the information they need, navigate easily through the data using visual dashboards and drilldown techniques, and collaborate readily with colleagues. The demands on the IT department have been significantly reduced, and agency directors can now prepare government financial reports in under 30 minutes – compared with several hours previously.

Not only can business users now easily navigate and analyze the detail without IT’s involvement, they are also able to leverage data from different data sources/dimensions that couldn’t easily be compared previously,

generating their own forecasts and reports whether for financial or HR purposes.

The agency is exploring additional ways it can exploit the Actuate dashboard capabilities. Further plans include externalizing the platform to enable international access, because so many of the potential users are based abroad.

Actuate: The BIRT Company

Actuate – The BIRT Company™ – founded the BIRT open source project, which serves as the foundation of ActuateOne®. ActuateOne applications deliver the most insights to the most people – ensuring organizations are ready for Big Data and touch devices.

ActuateOne empowers developers to deploy business analytics and customer communications applications with one BIRT design to access any data, provide one user experience for any user, supported by one platform for any cloud, on-premise or touch device deployment.

