

PROJECT BRIEF



Business Problems
Challenges
Deliverables
Outcomes
Data Sources
Technology

UTILITY METER DATA MART

CUSTOMER:

Regional Utility
– Midwest USA

PROJECT:

Utility Meter
Data Mart

BUSINESS PROBLEM

The client is a producer of coal and wind-generated power that supplies distribution companies over a large intrastate area. The client uses a meter data management system called MV-90, which is commonly used in the industry. Reporting and analysis of meter data is core to the operations of the utility, but there was no enterprise reporting system in place that would allow managers to access the meter data from a central location. The process for creating reports was very manual as it involved a combination of direct queries and spreadsheets to create the final product. Consequently, there were issues in the following areas:

1. The accuracy of reports
2. The employee time required to create the reports
3. Inability to “slice” or “drill into” the report data
4. Much of the reporting relied on the knowledge of a few people spreadsheet authors
5. Inconsistent definitions of data terminology
6. Minimal security on spreadsheet-based reports. The client was in search of an enterprise meter reporting solution that was robust, secure, accurate, and extensible.

CHALLENGES

- Extracting data from MV-90
- Determining how to handle complex formulas required for some of the reports
- The reporting solution had to be highly intuitive; requiring minimal training

DELIVERABLES

- A series of de-normalized star-schemas were created and implemented; these schemas were designed to be extensible for other subject areas that would later be brought into the data warehouse
- A new enterprise reporting tool was selected, via a competitive process, and subsequently implemented

OUTCOMES

- All report users could create meter data reports after authenticating into a portal
- Reports could be scheduled and pushed out to users
- The accuracy and consistency of internal reports improved significantly; while giving users the ability to “slice” and “drill-into” the underlying data
- Managers could now spend more time on decision making and less on data preparation

DATA SOURCES

- Itron MV-90
- Oracle 10G

TECHNOLOGY USED

- Oracle 10G
- Cognos 8.4

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