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Northrop Grumman Developers Get Their SAP Project Off the Ground Using Gold Client

Build a new SAP production landscape – but with limited data and access? This was the challenge facing the One Source Enterprise Solutions Group at global security company Northrop Grumman. The group was tasked with creating a new SAP production landscape in a remote location for an internal customer whose data needed to be segregated and protected from unauthorized viewing.

To build and test any new landscape, a development team needs to work with current and relevant data. However, in this case, the typical step of copying the entire production database into the development or quality environment was not an option.

The Northrop Grumman team had to find a solution that would allow them to surgically extract the small amount of critical data present in the production database – roughly 1% to 2% of the full 2TB database – along with all the subsequent supporting data. Additionally, the new landscape would be moved to a remote location, to which the development team would have very limited access. This meant that there was little room for error and few opportunities to make post-production fixes, and that obtaining live production data was critical to the new landscape's long-term success.

Overcoming the Data Transfer Hurdle

Paul Stoltz, Manager, Enterprise Solutions Group Strategy and Support at Northrop Grumman, knew of a product that he thought might help: Gold Client data management software from Hayes Technology Group. Stoltz approached Hayes Technology with three issues that his company was grappling with:

- How to build and test new landscapes with current, relevant transactional data – without compromising confidentiality
- How to ensure the environments were in sync with the new remote SAP instance that contained the live production data

- How to complete the project within a short, two-week timeframe

Once Hayes Technology demonstrated how Gold Client replicates master and configuration data, as well as a specific, user-selected subset of non-classified transactional data, “it became apparent immediately that we found our solution,” Stoltz said.

“The team arrived on Monday to install Gold Client. By Tuesday they were identifying and migrating data with our team, and they spent the day Wednesday and Thursday confirming and validating that everything was moved and in the proper location in the landscape, with full data integrity intact. It took roughly one hour to move the actual data. Gold Client went into the very complex area from which we needed a specific data set and knocked it out of the park,” said Stoltz.

Stoltz and his team also found Gold Client to be extremely flexible on everything from Z tables to data linking, which was important given the narrow range of data they were allowed to extract. Gold Client made it easy for the IT team to tell which data posted and which didn't, helping identify and eliminate errors. “A global ERP landscape can be very complex,” Stoltz said. “Gold Client is not. It's very straightforward and easy to use.”

Better Data, Smaller Databases

Intelligent data transfer tools allow developers to slice data as finely as they need to, eliminating the need for full database copies and limiting the stress put on storage capabilities. And since Gold Client allows IT teams to dynamically create user-defined subsets of SAP data, teams will also see improved test data quality, development and data integrity and compliance, and reduced storage and hardware expenditures – throughout the entire life cycle of that data.

To learn more about Northrop Grumman's experience using Gold Client, visit www.goldclient.com. ■

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