

Major UK Insurance Company

Household name insurance company, with a wide range of personal insurance, savings and pension products.

The Business Issue

The requirement of the Finance Services team was to provide consistent, coherent information about a large, complex business to a wide range of users, including Finance Managers, Analysts and more casual users.

Reporting of expenses & headcount information was the primary requirement, with the ability to produce timely, accurate information at the end of each period of paramount importance. It was also necessary to be able quickly and easily to reflect changes to organisational and accounting structures.

Other requirements included a Balanced Scorecard application and the reporting and analysis of sales and timesheet information, but overall it was critical that new requirements, some of which had a limited life, could be accommodated quickly and efficiently and without significant expense both in terms of time and cost.

In addition to analysis and reporting, a key requirement was the consolidation and reporting of budgets and forecasts, including the ability easily to accommodate changes both in a bottom-up and top-down fashion.

The Solution

Rockport Software consultants worked alongside members of the Finance Services team to deliver the solution required to meet their many and varied management information needs.

The solution was based on Oracle Express Server, Oracle's world class analytical server, which was used as the central repository for all management information. Input data came from various sources, including the General Ledger and other database systems via flat files. Some data was loaded directly from one database using embedded SQL. For the budgeting and forecasting requirement, data was collected from users via spreadsheet and then automatically uploaded into Express Server.

Access to the information was provided via a number of different interfaces, including spreadsheets dynamically retrieving data from Express Server, and Express Web Publisher, which provided a web reporting capability easily accessible by many users with a minimum of development and administrative effort.

The Benefits

The Finance Services team was able to provide timely and accurate information to their customers, and to adapt quickly to evolving requirements and an organisation that was undergoing frequent changes. They became largely self-sufficient and, with advice and guidance from Rockport, were able to harness the power and flexibility of Express to deliver real business benefit at a value for money cost.