

Case Study

Europe's Freight & Cargo Leader Drives Efficiency and Security with Analytics



Business

- Europe's leading provider of freight and vehicle exchange services

Challenge

- To manage 450,000 freight offers/day and 30,000 warehouse/logistics options with efficiency and security

Outcome

- Built high-performance analytics into entire transport chain, gaining real-time insight into daily marketplace operations and beefing up security

TimoCom revolutionized Europe's transport sector by creating an electronic marketplace for freight and vehicle exchange. It's a fast-paced business complicated by the varied operational and regulatory requirements and languages of different countries. Company leaders recognized early on that sustained business growth would require improved performance and deeper insights into its international operations, and turned to Action for help.

"Our database in its existing form had reached its limits," said Ingo Klose, Manager of Business Intelligence at TimoCom.

TimoCom chose the Action Analytics Platform™ and the Action Vector Analytics Database based on the advantages of a massively parallel processing architecture with columnar structure, adaptive compression, compiled queries, high-speed interconnectivity and in-memory analytics.

Optimizing Fleet and Warehouse Utilization

By integrating the Action solution with its TC Truck & Cargo and TC eBid applications, TimoCom can track and report on transport and warehousing contracts, and optimize vehicle fleet and warehouse capacity and utilization, accelerating time-to-insight across the transport chain.

In the transport and freight forwarding industry, orders tend to be large and represent a large investment on the part of the customer. Criminal organizations sometimes monitor and prey upon transport networks, attempting to steal valuable freight in transit.

With Action Vector, TimoCom can quickly detect and analyze suspicious or irregular activities at any point in the transport chain, helping to ensure a more secure and reliable experience for customers.

"We saw up to a 100% improvement in query speed in our initial tests without having done any optimization of the tables or inquiries," said Klose. "The performance when using Action Vector on our existing virtualized systems was remarkably good."

With the Action platform, such performance gains can be achieved on commodity hardware and without the need for a lot of database tuning, making for a highly efficient and cost-effective solution.



Transport Insights Drive Business Value.

Today, TimoCom is a €42 million company managing 450,000 daily cargo space and freight offers from more than 100,000 users.

“We switched to Actian Vector to manage an increasing amount of data for analysis and reporting,” said Klose. “The new analytic capabilities not only provided us with more effective and deeper insights into customer behavior but also improved our ability to identify any irregularities and prevent theft.”

TimoCom is also extending its use of the Actian Analytics Platform as an enterprise-wide solution. Actian Action Apps™ provide an ideal solution to develop custom mobile apps that empower TimoCom staff with valuable insights into their transport services, anytime and anywhere. The ability to analyze and respond swiftly to changes in the transport environment plays a big role in building customer loyalty and satisfaction.

Generational Leap in Analytic Performance

Actian Vector is ideal for BI, reporting and analysis because it accelerates time to insight. Vector is designed from the ground up to remove the performance bottlenecks so often encountered when using relational databases. Rather than burdening database administrators with extensive or ongoing database tuning, performance is achieved by unlocking performance features already available in modern CPUs.

Vector processing – a patent-pending Actian technology whereby a single instruction can be performed across data sets

Column-based storage – disk I/O is minimized by accessing only relevant data

On-chip cache computing – data processing on chip cache is 100x faster than in RAM

Smarter compression – compression is performed inside the CPU for maximum throughput

Parallel execution – data is processed in parallel using any number of CPU cores



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