

Transitioning from Netezza to Actian:

A Cost-effective Upgrade



Business

- Global Banking

Challenge

- Transition and upgrade from end-of-life Netezza.
- One repository for all transaction data. Monitor and manage client exposure and risk

Outcome

- Better performance, lower TCO, leading to an expected \$20 million dollars savings over five years
- Easy and cost-effective transition from Netezza to Actian. Analytics that used to take hours or days now can be done in minutes.
- Faster, complete data analysis and reporting for improved business insights

Overview

The Bank is one of the world's largest financial institutions, serving individual consumers, small- and middle-market businesses, large corporations, governments, and institutions with a full range of banking, investing, and asset and risk management products and services. It is a global leader in corporate and investment banking and trading across a broad range of asset classes. The Bank oversees more than 50 million consumer and small business relationships with more than 5,000 retail banking offices and 16,000 ATMs. Online banking has about 30 million active users along with more than 15 million mobile users.

Challenge

The Bank's in-house analytics solution, Netezza, had reached its end-of-life cycle and was not going to be supported by IBM or its channel partners. Finding a cost-effective, scalable solution was paramount.

The Bank needed to create one data repository for all positions across all asset classes, thereby enabling ad hoc analysis of positions and their sensitivity to market factors, such as volatility, interest rate changes, timing, and more. In addition, the Bank had massive volumes of data structured and unstructured that needed to be digested, analyzed, and acted on in short order.

The Bank also wanted greater visibility into its risk exposure. It knew that presently, managing client risk and exposure was at 20th-century levels. For example, risk and opportunity value was analyzed via batch data dumps once a day. The Bank needed greater insights, delivered in sub-minute intervals, multiple times a day. It also had additional criteria that had to be met, including improved price/performance levels, ease of development and maintenance, durability, and a palatable TCO.

Overview

The Bank assessed several analytics platforms against its existing Netezza solution. The evaluation process, conducted over a period of several months, included a performance proof of concept, in which Actian ran on five compute node clusters versus Twinfin, with 24 nodes. Actian required a fraction of the hardware that Netezza was using. There also was a security audit, design previews, compression comparisons, volume handling ability, loading, stress, ad hoc queries, and an in-depth comparison between Actian and Netezza.

Benefits of an Easy Decision

The Bank was impressed by Actian's level of expertise and partnership. The ability to seamlessly shift away from end-of-life Netezza while improving the overall quality of its data analysis made the decision an easy one for the Bank. Now, with Actian, the Bank is able to deal with both structured and unstructured data. It can run complex analytics in record time—lowering response times from hours or days to minutes—with on-demand integration, an extensible framework, and higher performance levels.

Overall, Actian presented a more cost-effective approach, including lower development costs with fewer staffing needs and the ability to re-use in-house hardware. And, along with the best price/performance for an analytics solution, Actian simply outperformed the competition in nearly every category, including the critically important quickest time to value and fastest response times to market changes or opportunities. Actian was able to exceed the performance and functionality of Netezza

while lowering overall cost of ownership. In fact, the bank estimates it will save \$20 million dollars over five years based on the replacement of legacy technology. The entire process went so well that the Bank already has sights on adding distributed functionality to its Consumer Business sector and for its Security group.

Actian Vector

Actian Vector is a true column store database that provides the power to connect, analyze, and act on big data unlike any other analytics platform on the market today.

With Actian Vector complex queries can be processed entirely in memory. Updates are managed without impacting the consistency of in-flight queries. Because Actian Vector runs on any Windows or Linux hardware, adding nodes is trivial compared to appliance based approaches.

With Actian Vector, organizations can better transform insights gained from big data into business value, use data from disparate sources and deliver next-generation analytics up to 30 times faster than the competition.



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