



Xtract IS

Intelligent data transfer with Xtract IS at OTTO Office

„Xtract IS creates the perfect connection for us between SAP and SQL Server Integration Services.“

Ulli Sachse, Head of IT & Organization at OTTO Office

Company

OTTO Office is one of the largest B2B mail-order retailers for office materials in Germany. The product assortment comprises the entire range of office supplies. In addition to computer equipment, printer cartridges and fax paper, products such as hanging file folders and record card systems as well as first-aid kits for offices, coffee powder or office furniture are available.



Since the market launch as an independent subsidiary of the Otto Group in 1997, the online seller has continuously expanded both its product range and clientele. To efficiently support the company's growth course with the system, the IT department at OTTO Office decided to re-orientate the IT infrastructure.

Challenges

SAP ERP modules were to replace the existing inventory management system. The plan was for a gradual changeover of all fundamental business processes to SAP ERP 6.

OTTO Office consciously decided against an SAP integrated solution using SAP BW, as it relies too much on SAP as a data source. Due to the company's focus on Microsoft technology, OTTO Office uses front-end tools such as Excel as well as MS SharePoint Server, the decision was made to use Microsoft SQL Server instead.

This decision posed the office supply provider with the challenge of extracting data from the efficient SAP production system in MS SQL Server. SAP does not provide a suitable tool for this so alternatives were evaluated.

Data export via CSV proved to be complex and inconvenient since development work on the SAP system was required. Various other software products did not meet the expectations of the Internet merchant.

Solution

After extensive research, OTTO ultimately found Xtract IS from Theobald Software GmbH. Xtract IS was the only

Overview of solutions

Company

OTTO Office GmbH & Co. KG specializes in office supplies, communication technology and office furniture mail-order via the Internet and catalog. The company is now among the largest B2B mail-order retailers for office products in Germany. With more than 17,000 items for the office from more than 150 leading brand name manufacturers, the Otto Group subsidiary meets the needs of mid-size companies as well as private customers. The company's headquarter is located in Hamburg and it has 350 employees in five countries.

Challenges

- Implementation of SAP ERP 6 and Microsoft Business Intelligence Stack
- No tool for data extraction from SAP to MS SQL Server available
- Data extraction via CSV too complex due to necessary SAP programming

Solution

SAP interface Xtract IS Ultimate with BI component DeltaQ for integration between MS SSIS and the SAP extractors.

Advantages

- Real, transaction-safe delta transmission of data
- One interface for transaction data and master data
- All business content is available without the need for application-specific knowledge (e.g. about table structure) on the BI development side

Data source

SAP ERP 6.0 (FI, MM, SD)



Time to Value

The solution was installed and ready to use within 2 days!

product capable of docking on to SAP ERP extractors and not only carrying out the extraction of pure table data, but also being able to use more sophisticated data provision mechanisms in the SAP source system. Among other things, the Xtract IS component suite has a special BI component (DeltaQ) that can control the extractor API of the SAP ERP. This way the precise functionality that allows BW systems to backup the data supply from the production system can be used. All the transaction and master data, including particular generic extractors and hierarchies are supported. Installation in SAP is not necessary. All business content is available without the need for application-specific knowledge (e.g. about table structure) on the BI development side.

Advantages

At OTTO Office, only the traffic data from financial accounting that has been added or modified since the last extraction will be loaded in MS SQL Server with the delta extraction. Data already loaded or unmodified are kept and do not need to be deleted before they are loaded again, a faster method compared to the perio-

dic extraction of the entire database, which will be used for all SAP objects at OTTO Office in the future. "With Xtract IS we can take all of the application logic from SAP with all of its benefits into the Microsoft world" Ulli Sachse confirms. "For instance, we do not have to worry about how to make changed receipts recognizable through our own programming, as we can use a BW content extractor – even without our own BW." If for example, an additional filter is required, the necessary programming does not have to be done in SAP, as it can be carried out in the BI system. This is an obvious benefit as OTTO Office has extensive expertise in Microsoft while the SAP know-how has to be acquired step-by-step in the course of the migration project. Bonus points also went to Theobald Software for the easy implementability of Xtract IS. The solution was installed and ready for use within two days. The Stuttgart-based company was also able to persuade as a result of its expertise, quality of service and response time. "The support was top-notch – fast and very technically adept," Ulli Sachse

explained. Theobald Software is not only SAP certified but also holds the highest Microsoft partner status as a "Microsoft Gold Certified Partner", which is only awarded to companies with extensive experience and know-how in the form of certified consultants and with corresponding customer references. In addition to this, the company can look back on more than 10 years of experience in the design and development of SAP interfaces. "It was important to us to have a partner that not only provided a high-performance product, but also expertise in the SAP and Microsoft world, and we found this partner in Theobald Software" Ulli Sachse declared in conclusion.

May 2011

„Thanks to the usability of the BW extractors in ERP, we are able to transfer business content from SAP into the Microsoft BI world.“

Ulli Sachse, Head of IT & Organization at OTTO Office

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