

A woman in a white lab coat is smiling and looking to her right. She is holding a black clipboard and a pen. In the background, another person in a white lab coat is working at a piece of machinery in a food production facility. The entire image has a blue tint.

CASE STUDY: **FOOD PRODUCTION COMPANY**

CLIENT BACKGROUND

Headquartered in Denver, Colorado, this food production company is one of the world's largest cheese, whey, and dairy producers and has been a staple in the industry more than 60 years.

BUSINESS FOCUS

Datasource Consulting is assisting the client replace a legacy reporting and analytics solution with a more modern architecture and analytic tools using Microsoft Business Intelligence and establishing an integrated Data Warehouse.

OBSTACLES

To establish a foundational, integrated data warehouse and self-service analytics solution to help the client achieve 3 main goals:

- To sunset a legacy reporting solution
- To provide a scalable, lean BI & Analytics solution rooted in best practice that leverages the proven Datasource methodology
- To position the client to aggressively compete on analytics

ENABLING
MORE THAN
400
ANALYSTS
ACCESS TO
TRUSTED DATA

THE DATASOURCE SOLUTION

Datasource worked with a number of different departments within the company to deliver a solution in production, and the project is 70% through core development. The goal is to completely retire the legacy business warehouse solution, provide additional analytic capabilities and leverage a Microsoft BI solution as the primary analytics platform.

Our BI experts and data analysts implemented best practice enterprise reporting and self-service analytics, which leverages an integrated data warehouse and multi-dimensional cubes. The team created access to cubes, to enable users to drag-and-drop, spot exceptions and anomalies, and obtain quick insight into actionable analytics. To date, Datasource has delivered seven different tabular cubes, supported by DAX (data analysis expressions). All self-service data is stored in the system's memory and is fast and responsive.



THE ROADMAP

The client now has access to gold standard reporting – highly vetted dashboards and push reporting - as well as actionable, self-service analytics. The advanced analytics solution is configured to look for exceptions and provide alerts. Business users can go into the cubes and design their own reports and can quickly and confidently ask and answer key business questions.



Dashboard

Highly vetted dashboards and push reporting - as well as actionable, self-service analytics.



Alerts

An advanced analytics solution configured to look for exception and provide alerts.



Reporting

Creating access to cubes to enable users to drag-and-drop, spot exceptions and anomalies.

RESULTS:

Enterprise reporting and self-service analytic capabilities were previously only within reach for a very small-set of users who would then share and distribute data. The Datasource solution now enables more than 400 analysts the ability to self-serve and deep dive rich, trusted data sets. The client is very well positioned to mature their analytic capabilities from reactive to proactive and soon enough predictive.

This solution puts data into the hands of the business and aligns with Microsoft's vision of supplying 'BI for everyone'. We provided an environment that is not overly complex, but has guard rails, enabling users and the corporation to aggressively compete on analytics and proactively address business opportunities.



With BI, I've gone from spending 10 hours per month to less than one hour per month. That's a huge win for me. It was a great project. I believe I essentially automated myself out of a job. It's the power of efficiency."

- Dairy Economics User

"From a daily BI self-service perspective I can just update and refresh and look for new data versus going into the BI report. It takes me seconds to compare test results now and I use that in combination with the SAP tools to look for outliers and understand and determine if testing adjustments need to be made."

- Senior Manager, Quality Production Plant

"The greatest thing about self-service is the ability to create reporting based on the users' needs. Prior to having self-service, we would pull data from multiple sources, download it to an Excel spreadsheet, and have many lookups to combine the data together. This resulted in a lot of wasted time re-creating data and possible data errors. With self-service, we create a report and it takes seconds to reload new data any time in the future without the wasted time or data errors. Additionally, the trending capability is unmatched in any system we have now."

- Plant Controller

PARTNER WITH US

Contact us to learn more about how our data integration solutions can provide your organization with access to improved information, enabling leaders, to make well-informed decisions and achieve more efficient operations.