INTERFLOUR GROUP GAINS FASTER INSIGHTS WHILE REDUCING COSTS ACROSS ITS GLOBAL OPERATIONS

THE BUSINESS

Interflour Group (IFG), based in Singapore, brings together some of the finest flour mills in Southeast Asia with ten mills operating in Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Turkey. Interflour’s modern mills have a total milling capacity of more than two million tons per year, making it one of the largest flour millers in the Asia region.

CHALLENGE

IFG executives needed to make faster and more agile business decisions and wanted a dashboard powered by data from across their locations that could be easily queried by all decision makers. This need to accelerate business decisions drove the digital transformation of their business.

When they brought together data from across its operations, the existing systems were too slow and not cost effective. The existing systems included an SAP S/4HANA ERP solution and integrated milling systems with additional legacy ERP, Microsoft Dynamics SL. IFG’s legacy systems, manufacturing execution systems (MES) and Excel data needed to come together on a cost-effective platform for data blending and reporting. Their main dashboard for operational reporting was driven by data from Excel, SAP ABAP reports, and SQL Server. It was clear they needed a new platform to support the executive dashboard.

MAPR SOLUTION

Using MapR, IFG is able to build an enterprise-grade data warehouse to deliver the business insights that IFG executives and mill leadership need to improve production and lower costs. IFG selected MapR over the competition because they wanted an enterprise-grade data platform with an efficient node footprint. Having a single platform that provides a filesystem, a NoSQL database, and streaming together simplifies Interflour’s ability to run multiple use cases on a single cluster of six servers.

MapR partner Hitachi Consulting Singapore Pte. Ltd. (HCSPL) helped fine-tune the use of MapR Database as the analytical data store to drive all of IFG’s analytics requirements. HCSPL developed a unique extract solution that can capture and transfer all S/4HANA data, including the change data capture (CDC), into MapR Database. They are using Talend as the ETL tool to extract and load into MapR Database and Tableau as the data visualization tool on top of Apache Drill.

"INITIALLY WE LOOKED AT BIG DATA SOLUTIONS IN THE CLOUD, CLOUdera, AND HORTONWORKS, BUT THOSE SOLUTIONS LACKED THE ENTERPRISE-GRADE CAPABILITIES OF MAPR,”

Joelle Choo
Group CTO at Interflour Group
RAPID DEVELOPMENT AND FLEXIBLE PLATFORM DECREASE TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP

**BENEFITS**

**Rapid Development and Deployment**

MapR partner HCSPL was able to rapidly develop and deploy IFG’s solution within three months. They utilized their S/4HANA-MapR template to customize, configure, and deliver the project. They were able to do a full extract of S/4HANA data with CDC, and the business intelligence teams started building dashboards on Tableau almost immediately.

**Lower Total Cost of Ownership**

The SAP Business Warehouse (BW) on HANA was too costly to scale from both a software and hardware perspective as it required that all data be stored in memory. In addition, moving non-SAP data into SAP HANA and then using it to drive the SAP BW for reporting increased the total cost of ownership.

The performance, flexibility, and scalability of MapR-DB 6.0 made it possible to host all S/4HANA tables and data. The new system enables IFG to archive the historical S/4HANA data and free up in-memory analytics on HANA for day-to-day transactions. By using MapR-DB instead of SAP HANA DB, IFG saved 90% on their SAP costs.

**Faster Access to Reports and Executive Dashboards**

IFG’s traditional reporting methods could take weeks to create a data warehouse with normalized data and changes. It now takes minimal to zero data transformation to build business intelligence reports.