



references

Central planning and reporting for international subsidiaries

Cubeware Importer supports growth strategy at Aquin Components

Solution

The software manufacturer Aquin Components GmbH (Aquin) deployed a central planning and reporting solution that integrates data from a wide range of source systems. Cubeware Importer automatically transfers and processes the data from the company's international subsidiaries. As a result, the central controlling department has the current, detailed information it needs to maintain a clear overview of the fast-growing company – and the subsidiaries can continue to work with their local accounting system of choice.

Services

- Coaching
- Training

Technology

- Various sources systems including Microsoft SQL Server and MySQL and flat files
- Microsoft SQL Server
- MIS Alea
- Cubeware Importer
- Cubeware Team Server
- Cubeware Cockpit

Aquin Components GmbH (Aquin) is one of the leading manufacturers of software solutions for the assets management and fund industry. Aquin's solutions are a best-of-breed standard for over 40 investment managers in 15 countries. The company based in Frankfurt, Germany has international subsidiaries in Dublin, London, Luxemburg, Paris, Zurich und New York. Aquin is an international player that witnessed strong growth rates in recent years. As part of its globalization strategy, the company needed to create an enterprise planning and reporting tool that could integrate new subsidiaries quickly and efficiently.

Central solution with local accounting support

The heterogeneous accounting systems used in its different subsidiaries posed a major challenge for Aquin. In order to consolidate the data at corporate headquarters, the company needed a powerful ETL tool that could automatically transfer all relevant information in a central planning and reporting solution. In addition, this solution should also incorporate central data as well to unify the partially heterogeneous master data. The functionality of Cubeware Importer was the prime reason why Aquin chose to implement the solution using Cubeware software.

Clear view of enterprise data at the click of a mouse

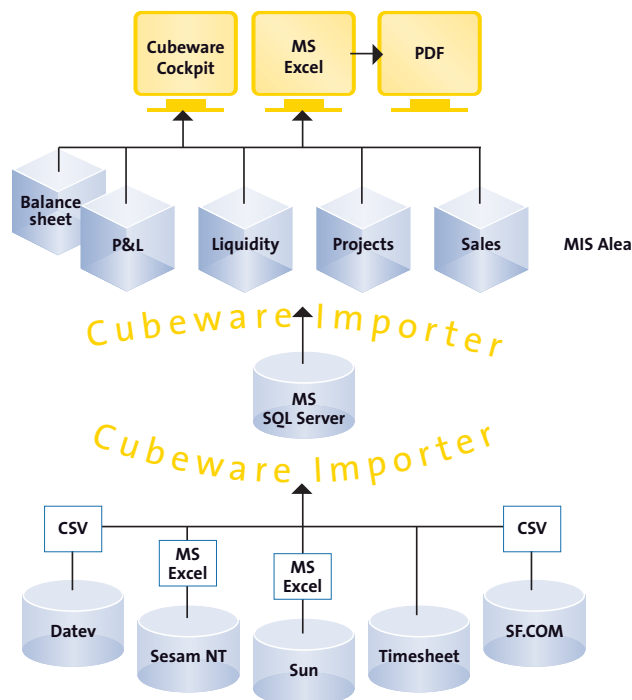
Importing data from heterogeneous systems

Under the direction of the controlling department, Aquin implemented a central planning and reporting solution for finance, sales and project management. In addition, the solution supports management consolidation.

The source data stem from different accounting systems including DATEV (Germany), Sesam NT (Switzerland) and Sun (England). The Web-based CRM solution Salesforce.com and an enterprise project management and timekeeping system also deliver important sales and project data. These data are transferred into Cubeware Importer – some directly and others through automatically generated flat files and Excel sheets. The ETL tool transfers the information into the central Microsoft SQL Server database and prepares them for multidimensional data analysis in the OLAP database MIS Alea.

Significant time savings for interfaces and data collection

Thanks to the new system the central controlling department now has ready access to key performance indicators for its international offices. Cubeware Importer simplified many of the typical problems related to interfaces and minimized the manual work involved with collecting and preparing source data.



Cubeware Importer transfers operative data into a central database and builds the analysis cubes.



"By linking our systems into the Cubeware solution, we can now clearly see things in perspective – especially in project management and sales."

Catalina Best, Financial Controller at Aquin Components GmbH



"By consolidating heterogeneous data, Cubeware Importer is supporting Aquin's international growth. We are now able to grow our business without losing sight of what's happening."

Andreas Blecher, VP Finance and Controlling at Aquin Components GmbH

Common base of data for planning and reporting

To create a homogeneous base of planning and reporting data, the new system links the source systems in a relational, in-between layer, where the OLAP cubes are built for analysis. Aquin uses the innovative features of Cubeware Importer, which uses mappings and scripts to support a direct write back into relational tables. This raw data is used to fill five business models – some data-driven, others structure-driven – into cubes. These cubes are designed for P&L, balance sheets, cash flow, sales and project management.

The controllers at Aquin's headquarters analyze this data, create monthly reports and conduct ad hoc analysis for management using Alea's Excel Integration and Cubeware Cockpit. The team also regularly creates reports for third-parties from this same system.

Fast implementation of enterprise structures

Aquin also used this project as an opportunity to build new and unify existing international organizational structures. Measures included extending cost center structures and implementing international charts of accounts. Other results of this project were the harmonization and extension of article masters as well as aligning customer numbers across all systems.

On account of rapid prototyping, the solution was deployed in record time. The first financial reporting was conducted a mere four weeks after the project was launched. The simple installation of the Cubeware tools, the fast integration of the heterogeneous source data and the flexible report structures all helped accelerate this process.

Tool for strategic growth

Despite the company's past-faced growth, Aquin now has a consolidated overview of its entire business. Thanks to Cubeware Importer, the company can quickly connect new subsidiaries to the system. The company now can access all important information as it is happening from its central office.

At the same time, the new system provides a much higher level of detail and a completely new view of the company as a whole. The controllers can now create analyses using total cost accounting and cost of sales methods. They can also effectively steer sales and projects by running break-even analyses by customer and region. As a result, the Cubeware system has played a major role in the operative and strategic management of Aquin's international growth.

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