Sagacity

Delivering Extensive Data Integrations for Centralised Systems and Reporting

Global Digital Solutions Provider

Data Management & Reporting

Data, rules & logic

Integrations build

User acceptance testing

Client Situation & Impact

We were engaged by a highly acquisitive leading digital solutions client to investigate concerns with the accuracy and efficacy of their existing international data warehouse solution. Following the initial assessment, the client appointed us as the technical data and delivery partner to link their existing billing systems with a new centralised finance ERP system and implement a data lake solution to provide a platform for historic data storage and reporting.

As an owner of over 60 brand entities, across 22 European countries working under different financial reporting frameworks e.g. IFRS, GAAP, PGC, and with each of their brands operating using their own systems, environments and ways of working, the client could not efficiently report at a group level.

Sagacity was engaged to bring together 20+ of their leading brand entities across 6 different regions to provide technical, data and project management expertise for integration into the new centralised finance ERP system.

How Did Sagacity Help?

We began with workshops and deep dives with client stakeholders across each finance team to understand regional billing differences, their systems and what data was available.

We performed an initial interrogation of the data to determine whether the data needed for the centralised solution existed, and whether any remediation or reverse engineering was required to address gaps in the data. This activity highlighted significant inconsistencies and availability issues.

Following the data assessment, we worked to agree the rules, logic and data for our technical teams to build the integrations and implement the connections for passing all financial billing data between the individual finance systems and the centralised ERP.

Multiple means of data transfer were used to incorporate the different regional needs and ways of working, including APIs and secure portal transfers.

Before 'go live,' the integrations underwent comprehensive testing including low level volume testing to ensure the different record types could be loaded, and User Acceptance Testing encompassing over 200 testing scenarios using test data for review by client teams.
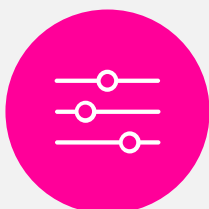
Data lake

New reporting capabilities

New data incorporated

Following successful implementation, the solution now processes over 750,000 transactions each month, applying transformations, where necessary, to ensure minimal loss of data integrity through no manual inputs and fast automation.

It also alleviates inaccuracies through data quality analysis, failing any human errors so that data is complete, accurate and usable when passed into the finance ERP.

In parallel to the billing system and ERP integration, we built a data lake solution that stores up to 5 years of historical data for some of the individual entities, alongside all newly loaded data for every entity. This provides a full picture from any previous point in time to today, showing all business revenue and how it is recognised across the periods.

The data lake offers detail-level information, providing more analysis and reporting levels for the client – capabilities they have never had before. The solution includes drilldowns by brand, product, region, etc, enabling more accurate P&L reporting. It also incorporates payroll data which is now centralised and discoverable, making financial reporting more complete.

Significant reduction in FTE cost

The new centralised system and integration automations have enabled the client to reduce the FTE cost at regional level, by converting to a centralised team with minimal input and tasks from each region.

Following our 14-months of support, development and processing, the client has also benefitted from extensive improvements to general efficiency performance and now has consistent processes in place for the centralised finance ERP system, without regional differences – something they have never had before.

The data lake provides a reliable environment for all centralised and individual entity data for the new team to better interrogate their performance reporting. It also enables our client to benefit from future-proofing and scalability, for new business acquisitions to easily adopt the new processes and ways of working without inconsistencies and challenges arising.