

Data Migration Case Study

Government Agency Saves
\$130,000 per Year



Problem

A 450-person metropolitan government agency changed core applications in 1998. The old system ran on a Unisys A-Series mainframe; the new application runs on an Oracle database system on an NT 4.0 machine. With the move, however, archival information remained on the A-Series computer, and the entire computer system had to be maintained just to have access to the data. Personnel frequently used the database to prepare case files, so on-demand access to the data by anyone in the department was critical.

The agency office needed to migrate the data off the Unisys machine so that they could stop the maintenance license agreement that cost them approximately \$130,000 per year.

Key Criteria

The reporting solution needed to be:

- browser-based for easy access by everyone in the department, and
- compatible with Macintosh and Windows-based PCs.

Solution

The Decision Support solution was a multi-step process. First, data was extracted from the Unisys DMS-II files and converted to flat files. The agency did not have a TCP/IP connection – a requirement for a direct extract, transform and load (ETL) procedure onto the Oracle database – so the data was transferred to tape and flown to Charlotte.

In Charlotte, Decision Support's Product Services group used *DQbroker*, our database access engine that has native access to DMS-II, Oracle and several other database management systems, to write the ETL scripts that took the data from flat files on a Unisys 5200 A Series to the Oracle database on an NT 4.0. In essence, Decision Support generated a mirror of the DMS-II data in Oracle.

After a rigorous verification process, Decision Support sent the data to the agency on a 20-GB hard drive.

The Product Services team followed it to the client's location to complete the implementation. First they set up a *DQbroker* environment on the NT machine, then loaded *DQvista*, a browser-based, thin-client reporting tool, onto the server. *DQvista* allows PC and Mac users alike to run ad hoc queries or develop standard reports from an administrator-controlled list of tables and views.

Training a group of end users and the IT staff took two days. The interest level was high because the data was queried frequently by a variety of people.

The agency now uses *DQvista*, with the *DQbroker* data access engine, to run on-demand, browser-based queries against the Oracle data.

Decision Support was the only vendor the agency interviewed that would access all the data and would work with both MACs and PCs.

(more)

Results

- The agency is saving \$130,000 per year in licensing fees.
- The IT manager is happy because his phone is not ringing for help.
- The agency has made the switch to DQvista, and can easily access the information they need from their PC or MAC browsers.
- Instead of spending time looking up information, the end-users have more time to dedicate to their other job functions.



Having trouble with data migration?

We customize solutions!

Tell us the problem, and we'll show you how to save time and money with a solution that fits your needs to a tee. Whether it's data access, migration, or reporting, Decision Support's experts will craft a plan and implement your project on time and on budget – guaranteed. No surprises, no excuses.

So tell us where it hurts, and we'll make it better!

About Decision Support Inc.

Decision Support Inc., based in Matthews, NC, provides intelligent reporting solutions that access data from anywhere in the enterprise for clients in more than 20 countries with thousands of end users. Its clients represent a diverse range of businesses, including financial institutions, manufacturing facilities, healthcare providers, and government agencies. From fast-access historical reports to up-to-the-minute transaction queries, accessing data from mainframes to most of today's platforms and database management systems, Decision Support's software puts the user in control of data-to-knowledge delivery.