

Budgeting and reporting with SAP data



Solution:

EVAG introduced a reporting system that stretches right across the company. In conjunction with Cubeware Connectivity for SAP, Cubeware Importer imports the data directly from SAP R/3 and other systems and prepares it for OLAP analysis. This uniform database permits fast, flexible analysis and provides a sound basis for budgeting.

Technology:

- SAP HR
- SAP CO
- Applix TM1
- Applix TM1 Excel Integration
- Cubeware Importer
- Connectivity for SAP® Solutions

Cubeware Importer harmonizes the database for reporting at EVAG

Essener Verkehrs-AG (EVAG), one of the largest public transportation companies in the western Ruhr area of Germany, carries 300,000 passengers a day. With a motto that translates as “We keep the city of Essen moving”, around 1,800 employees provide a customer-friendly service to the company’s passengers.

Analytical controlling system required

EVAG controls its operational business processes with SAP R/3. But this transaction-oriented platform is unsuitable for analytical controlling activities. Creating monthly reports was very labor-intensive and therefore subject to error. Rapid, spontaneous reporting was not really possible.

The controlling department therefore wanted to introduce a central budgeting and reporting system. In particular, it wanted profit and loss data to be transferred more quickly and a faster system of charging for services that were provided by one part of the company to another. The aim of the project was to raise quality standards by freeing up resources.

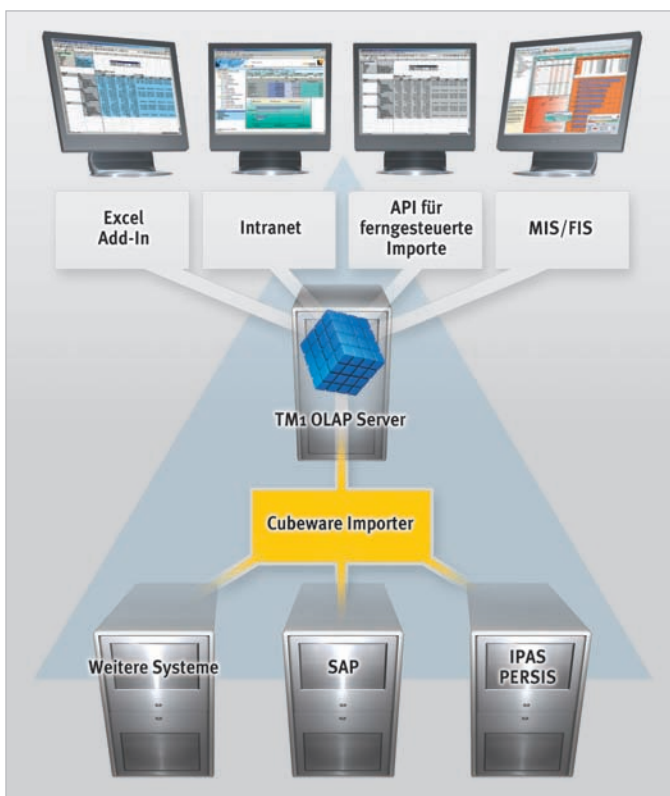
Impressive value for money

After comparing a number of products, the EVAG controllers chose the combination of the OLAP database TM1 from Applix and Cubeware Importer, which proved to be the most cost-effective solution. Cubeware Importer also solves the problem of data harmonization, which is essential to central reporting at EVAG.

Scalable system with a uniform database

Automatic data refinement

Cubeware Importer imports data directly from SAP HR and SAP CO as well as from text files. This ETL tool not only transfers the current data; it also transfers structures such as accounts, cost centers and orders from SAP R/3 to the OLAP cubes, thus minimizing the effort required for data entry and maintenance and ensuring the consistency of the SAP data. This is an automated, scheduled process. During the import process the data is optimized for analysis and budgeting in a process of selection and calculation.



Cubeware Importer is scheduled to transfer data and structures to the OLAP cubes

The EVAG controllers access the data and carry out their analyses using the TM1 Excel integration. A Visual Basic application on the basis of the TM1 API interface allows data imports to be started remotely.

Close link between actual and budget data

The budget data is now managed in TM1 rather than Excel. The fact that the data is managed separately relieves the burden on the ERP systems. The actual data from the SAP system is used to budget for subsequent years. Budgeting is carried out at divisional level and the figures are then allocated to cost centers and months by means of Cubeware Importer on the basis of the previous year's figures.

From the controlling department to other departments

The controlling department was the project initiator at EVAG. But the ease of use and performance of the system soon impressed other parts of the company. Now the personnel, infrastructure management, customer management and sales departments, each of which have their own data, are all linked to the system.

Although the base system was implemented by external consultants, support and further development of the application is entirely in the hands of the controlling department. The integration of further SAP modules, as planned, will be easy to implement thanks to Cubeware Importer. In the future it will be possible to use a graphical front end such as Cubeware Cockpit to develop an MIS. The system is also open for reporting via an intranet portal.

Reporting in 20 minutes

This flexible system is the ideal solution for EVAG's own particular budgeting process. The uniform database eliminates the possibility of diverging interpretations. The quality of the data and the scope for analysis have improved considerably.

In addition, the efficient reporting process has reduced the effort required for reporting. Previously, it took five days to prepare the data for reporting with Excel. With TM1 and the capability to import both budget and actual data, the data can now be prepared in only 20 minutes.



Holger Lietz, controller at EVAG Essener Verkehrs-AG:

"By importing the data from a variety of data sources, we created a uniform data source that allows us to carry out our analyses quickly and reliably."