



The Client

The ARAG Group is an internationally recognized, independent partner for legal matters and protection. It is the largest family-owned company in the German insurance industry. With over 3,300 employees worldwide, the Group generates sales and premium revenues of over €1.4 billion. ARAG is actively serving customers in 14 countries, including Germany and the United States, and currently holds a leadership position in the US legal insurance market. In addition, ARAG is the market leader in Spain and Italy.

“We would have had so many problems if we didn’t have this solution.”

CASE STUDY

THE PROBLEM

ARAG was in the process of migrating from HP CheckMate to a similar test data management solution. Their support contract from HP for CheckMate was expiring, and the company needed to find a more sophisticated and dynamic tool for the future with masking and obfuscation capabilities.

THE SOLUTION

ARAG found that Grid-Tools flagship tool, Datamaker, met all of their needs and enabled them to successfully improve and continue their data masking and obfuscation processes.

THE SATISFIED CUSTOMER

ARAG are a globally recognized insurance provider and legal services company, who are market leaders in Spain and Italy.

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The key problem

When their support contracted ended, ARAG firstly tried to maintain CheckMate on their own. However, they soon realized they were faced with an unfeasible task. They began looking into alternative solutions and chose Grid-Tools almost immediately. “We required a solution similar to CheckMate, but one which also offered the ability to mask and de-identify our personal and sensitive data records. Data privacy is becoming an increasingly important issue in Germany”, commented Jochen Westheide, ARAG’s Senior Systems Manager. “As the person responsible for all of the systems ARAG uses to run its entire business, it was quickly becoming apparent to me that, in order to maintain compliance, we required a stronger solution which could also anonymize our test data.” In addition to the features and benefits of CheckMate, ARAG also required a tool that could produce quality test data for their testing and development environments.

The right choice

“When looking into various solutions, we realized Grid-Tools Datamaker would also be very useful in getting the right kind of data for testing and development”, Jochen explained. “This was incredibly important for us and one of the main factors in our tool selection. Yes, we needed data for testing and development, but we also needed a variety of data scenarios. Using all of the data from production would not have suited our needs. Although we only needed a small amount of data, we needed a rich spread.”

Given that ARAG had been using CheckMate for many years, they were also grateful for the similarities in the two solutions. “Our first impression of Datamaker was that it was quite similar to CheckMate. This turned out to be a very big advantage in using the tool, as my colleagues were able to pick it up very quickly and the migration was very simple”, Jochen pointed out. “What was really important for us from the outset was that the migration to Datamaker from the tools we were already using would be incredibly simple – and it was”.

ARAG was also looking into other similar solutions and found Datamaker to be the right choice for many other reasons, in addition to the additional functionality and the easy migration from CheckMate. “In the evaluation we did for test data management solutions, Datamaker had a much easier interface in comparison to other tools like Princeton (IBM Optim)”, Jochen stated.

Jochen admitted that it was the pricing, however, which won them over in the end. “The pricing model Grid-Tools offered also gave us the opportunity to switch from CheckMate. If it would have been more expensive, I am convinced we never would have been able to migrate to a better solution”, said Jochen. “This tool is not too expensive. We looked into some other tools in the market which have the same features as Datamaker, and they cost quite a bit more. The pricing for this tool is very reasonable.”

A satisfied customer

After acquiring the solution and starting the migration from CheckMate, the test and development teams at ARAG continue to successfully create and manage quality data on an ongoing basis.

Jochen told Grid-Tools, “In being responsible for all of the testing projects at ARAG for new programs, versions and upgrades, it is a great benefit to know that the data we have in our test environments is very much like the data we have in production. Before using the tools, the bugs we found in test environments were usually a direct result of the quality of the data we were using. It is good to know that the data model we put into the tool is correct and we can rely on this data. Most of my colleagues, and even the developers, rely heavily on our test data, so we not only use it in test environments but also in development. We would have had so many problems if we didn’t have this solution.”

Grid Tools

11 Oasis Business Park
Eynsham
Oxfordshire
OX29 4TP

UK: +44 01865 884 600

US: +1 866 563 3120

E: info@grid-tools.com

www.grid-tools.com

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