

A Grid-Tools Case Study: Large Multinational Bank

Summary

The successful migration of the customers, products and financials of one multinational bank into the infrastructure of another was essential during a major acquisition. In order to ensure the process went as smoothly as possible, the bank's test and development teams required a chain of activities. They needed to retrieve, convert and validate the data so it could be uploaded into the bank's back-end systems.

The following is an overview of how a large multinational bank used Grid-Tools software solution, GT Datamaker™, to create meaningful, synthetic test data. The team was able to utilize the tool to retain cross-domain consistency and create data exactly like the converted EDI files of the bank they were merging with. The data was used successfully across 47 projects for more than 80 insertion files, allowing the team to meet tight project deadlines.

"Datamaker is the only tool which has total test data management control, and by this I mean real test data management."

Why the bank approached Grid-Tools

The bank's migration team was faced with converting 80 insertion files into their file structure. Each file format was allocated its own inserter project and the objective of each was to ensure the successful insertion of converted files into the back-end systems.

In order to successfully test the process of insertion, the test teams required converted data. This would usually come straight from the converter itself, but the system was not ready. To speed up the testing activities for

the insertion projects, the bank decided to use a test data team to generate fictive test data. This test data team was able to generate cross-domain consistent test data in each file format for all 47 projects. It was also essential that the data retain the original integrity completely, especially customer numbers. In summary, they required an exact replication of what the converter would have ideally created.

"If your organization has sensitive data and you require data for test and development based on this, Grid-Tools have a powerful test data management solution."

Why the bank chose Grid-Tools

The bank hired an expert in Test Data Management, Edwin van Vliet from Yacht Consultancy, to research tools, make informed recommendations and manage the data provisioning process.

Edwin researched and tested many solutions, none of which could create the data they needed sufficiently. "Most of the vendors we found only really offered database subsetting, which isn't the same as data creation. Grid-Tools were literally the only vendor we found with the ability to create synthetic data of the format and quality we required. Datamaker was also able to manage the data as a repeatable process and add additional value to the overall test data management activities."

"Initially, I had planned an entire approach which included creating an "iron test data set" and building test data based on this. However, Grid-Tools demonstrated how their Datamaker approach would actually work much better. We were given a trial version for the Proof of Concept and started our training activities straight away. We needed to be certain that the tool we were going to buy was 100% appropriate, and it was."

“If you require cross-domain consistent, synthetic data for testing or development, the Datamaker solution is easy and effective.”

A successful migration

“My test team had a very small window to create the data we needed and pressures to deliver it successfully. Using Datamaker they were able to create the initial data within one month. Within just three months they were able to create cross-domain consistent data. This allowed us to successfully meet our deadlines. Actually, I find it surprising that a team who had never worked with Datamaker before was able generate data with the required quality we needed within such a short space of time!”

“The ability for us to generate test data easily also reduced a great deal of effort. Using Datamaker we had an improvement of test data quality and efficiency of over 60% on all of our projects. With a single press of a button we were able to generate cross-domain consistent, conversion-like data for more than 80 insertion files.”

“The uniqueness of Datamaker is that the tool is not only capable of data masking and database subsetting, but it generates test data and manages and controls what is in the test environment. It even goes a step further and actually helps to improve test processes through complete, end-to-end test data management.”

A satisfied customer

After a successful migration Edwin and his team remain positive about the impact Datamaker had on their projects and would recommend the tool to other companies facing similar challenges.

“If we hadn’t found Datamaker we would have been creating the data manually using Excel spreadsheets. We simply could not find a competing solution. I am confident we wouldn’t have been able to manage this process manually. With this centralized approach, we increased the quality of all test activities before the project went into the integral testing phase. Datamaker decreased the amount of defects during integral testing and shortened the test period considerably.”

“Datamaker is indeed the only application which offers total test data management control. Other tools are only really capable of masking and subsetting. Datamaker can do it all!”

“If you require cross-domain consistent, synthetic data for testing or development, the Datamaker solution is easy and effective. Datamaker is also the only application which provides total test data management control and by this I mean real test data management. The uniqueness of Datamaker is that the tool not only offers data masking and database subsetting, but it generates test data and manages and controls what is in the test environment end-to-end. As I said before, other tools are only really capable of masking and subsetting. Datamaker can do it all!”

Edwin and the team were also pleased with Datamaker’s ease of use and the support given to them by Grid-Tools.

“One of the best features of the tool is that it is very user-friendly and simple. You only require a short study period before understanding the main features of the software. However, during that period Grid-Tools were exceptionally helpful and responded to any of our requests for help immediately.”

“Datamaker is a strong solution which can be used for organising test data management in many organisations.”

Grid-Tools Ltd

11 Oasis Business Park Eynsham Oxfordshire OX29 4TP

UK: +44 (0) 1865 884 600 USA: 1 866 563 3120

info@grid-tools.com www.grid-tools.com