



The Client

Grid-Tools' financial services client is one of the largest and most respected sources for credit ratings, research and risk analysis internationally, serving more than 9,300 customer accounts at some 2,400 institutions around the globe.

This large financial services organization was in the process of integrating their rating and billing systems into a single streamlined application. This was a comprehensive end-to-end project, involving development teams from both ratings and billing. Provisioning high-quality data for the development of the system was absolutely crucial to achieve success. The initial data requirement was to create fictional ratings so the down-stream billing team could build and test their modules. Once this was completed the QA data team built more complex transaction types to fully exercise the end-to-end process. They then moved on to the final data phase, which was to bulk-up the application data to production-like volumes to simulate 'going live'.

“We didn't really look at the other solutions after we found Grid-Tools.”

CASE STUDY

THE PROBLEM

A large financial services company found they were unable to manually create the quantities of complex test data, or build sufficiently high-quality test scenarios, within the desired timeframe.

THE SOLUTION

Using the Datamaker solution, the organisation began to successfully and efficiently create the required test data. The tool has subsequently become fundamental to their advanced development methodology.

THE SATISFIED CUSTOMER

One of the largest and most respected financial services companies in the world.

Huw and Paul from Grid-Tools grasped our data model so well that in only two days we were already creating the data needed for the project.

The key problem

The QA team spent a total of three months attempting to manually create data for the project. They quickly realized the significant resource they would require, as it was taking over 20 hours to create data from a single transaction type. There were over 50 tables that needed to be analyzed for a single invoice.

The QA Lead for the team said, “Continuing in this way was simply unimaginable given the amount of effort required. There was never enough data for the developers to use. It was concluded that we would not finish the project on time with this approach. In addition, the manual effort involved in preparing data was highly stressful given the tight project deadlines. We needed a different approach quickly if the project were to succeed.”

The team was not only struggling to provision the quantities of data needed, but also had to quickly build high quality ‘one off scenarios’ to test specific application paths. At this point, they seemed to be faced with an impossible task, as they were struggling with a highly sophisticated and demanding data model as well as a very aggressive time line.

The QA Lead commented, “It would have been tremendously expensive to continue as normal and keep manually creating data. Our data model was too comprehensive to take into account every complicated scenario possible. It was at this point we decided to look into automated data creation tools.”

The right choice

Huw Price and Paul Blundell, two of Grid-Tools Technical Directors, engaged in a consultancy to create the data needed for the project. “We firstly needed Huw and Paul to understand and appreciate the scale of our data model. I decided to give them every complicated scenario I could think of to see how well they might comprehend the challenges we were facing. When they started creating data for each scenario, they made it look so simple! It was difficult to believe that a process causing us so much grief could be fixed in such a short period of time. Huw and Paul from Grid-Tools grasped our data model so well that in only two days we were already creating the data needed for the project. It was much sooner than we ever expected!”, explained the QA Lead for the team.



After the initial consultancy, Grid-Tools began to finalize the proof of concept. For the development team, the ability of Datamaker to understand such complicated schemas, foreign keys and constraints provided a convincing argument. “The Datamaker tool had features we’d never thought of. It not only fulfilled the expectations of our development team, it exceeded them! It was taking us over 20 hours to create data for one transaction. Once we started using Datamaker, it was taking us less than 2-3 hours. Datamaker also provided additional advanced functionality such as built-in coverage maps to improve functional coverage while reducing data volumes and sophisticated version control, allowing us to upgrade our test data quickly across releases.”

It was at this point the customer decided to use Grid-Tools on the project and acquire the licensing for Datamaker. They had debated other vendors prior to the consultancy but, after seeing the tool in action, Datamaker was quickly chosen.

“We didn’t really look at the other solutions after we found Grid-Tools. We just had such excellent results from the consultancy engagement and POC. We initially found the features, support and knowledge from Grid-Tools to be so much more than what we ever expected, it was unnecessary to keep looking further”, The QA Lead explained.

A satisfied customer

After acquiring the solution, the development team continue to successfully create data using the Datamaker product. The tool has become fundamental to their advanced development methodology. “After three months of manually attempting to create the data we needed, I cannot begin to explain how important this tool has been for the success of this project. I mean, thank God we had the Datamaker tool! I don’t know what we would have done without it. It is inconceivable to even consider it.

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Now everyone on our team is pleased with how simple the process is. We no longer struggle and we no longer worry about using data. Any data we need can quickly be created using Datamaker.”

The customer also commented on the service they were provided by Grid-Tools, “The support given to us from the Grid-Tools team was excellent. It really did feel like they were going out of their way to help us and ensure our problems were being solved as soon as possible. We have been 100% pleased with the support and service Grid-Tools provided and continue to provide for the development team.”

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