

VLDB CASE STUDY

THE REQUIREMENT

A leading UK logistics company required the decommissioning of a legacy database system responsible for the reporting of an integral customer's weekly billing. It was believed that the legacy system was inaccurately reporting billing information, and its continued use was deemed to be no longer cost effective. The legacy process was executed manually on a weekly basis, and updating the reference data was time-consuming. It was confirmed that the reference data in the legacy database was over six months out of date, impacting heavily on the reliability of the customer's weekly billing report.

BILLING SYSTEM UPGRADE

THE METHOD

VLDB Solutions commenced in-depth analysis of the existing process within the legacy system and the SQL code used to extract the data from its original source. It became evident that it would be more beneficial to import the data from its original source into Teradata to make use of Teradata's massively parallel processing capability for data analysis. An automated process was created for delta loads of parcel information, as well as all reference tables used in the process. Finally, a series of processes were scripted within Teradata to perform the transformations and aggregation required to output the data in the same format as the original report.

THE DELIVERABLES

VLDB Solutions were able to accurately replicate the process entirely within the Teradata instance. Teradata was utilised to store and more easily maintain the data, and a Unix environment was utilised to automate the process from beginning to end using scheduled shell scripts. Processes were designed and implemented to maintain the reference tables used throughout the report to ensure accuracy going forward.

THE BENEFITS

Following the replication of the legacy process in the Teradata instance, the client was able to entirely decommission the outdated legacy database, consolidating more of their enterprise data into a single data warehouse. Through the more accurate, reliable, and defensible reporting of billing information, the client was able to identify significant missed value.