

VLDB CASE STUDY

THE REQUIREMENT

The client required a full implementation package for a company-wide database, combining their existing databases to enable accurate and speedy reporting. VLDB were required to build and maintain the DBMS and load existing and new data into the database. Database monitoring and load job logging was also required, as was total security.

DATABASE PACKAGE IMPLEMENTATION

THE METHOD

VLDB Solutions first developed a cloud-based Greenplum database system to act as a development server, specifically to develop the initial ETL processes to be used and to provide proof of concept. The DBMS and data loading servers were CentOS-based and 'hardened' to provide improved security. Methods for extracting data from existing systems and databases were developed and tested using the development server. Sources included DB2, SQL Server, MySQL and XL spreadsheets, amongst others. All design work was carried out by VLDB and signed off by the client. Overcoming old working methods and embedded-thinking by the client was a major hurdle. Once we'd managed to prove that the impossible wasn't, things started to move along quickly.

THE DELIVERABLES

Setup of a second Greenplum database, to be used for production purposes, was developed in time as required. This was largely based on the development server but was upgraded to improve performance and allow multiple user connections for report generation. Ongoing database administration and tuning of both Greenplum databases was supplied by VLDB Solutions.

THE BENEFITS

The customer had a single point of reference for reporting purposes, allowing them to use modern phone-based methods to keep senior staff up to date on current turnover and marketing outcomes. The systems developed will allow them to plug in future sources using essentially the same technology to broaden the reporting and marketing methods. Through the more accurate, reliable, and defensible reporting of billing information, the client was able to identify significant missed value.