


 DataPA®

Providing affordable, high performance self-service reporting for North Lanarkshire Council

North Lanarkshire Council needed to find a way to provide their end users with the ability to generate their own reports. This was required to allow their users to access the information they needed more quickly whilst also freeing up resources in the IT department.

The Council fulfilled this requirement with DataPA, a self-service reporting solution which enables end users to easily create their own reports on even the most complex of business systems.

The straight forward DataPA query wizard allows the Council's end users to access their data from within a number of different applications like Excel, Access and Crystal Reports. This one new skill, which users learnt in just a single day, compliments their existing skills giving a quick return on investment.

As the users became able to access the data themselves the amount of work done by the IT department doing ad-hoc reports was reduced.

In addition many of the reports the Council required needed to access data which was heavily calculated. For example, the cost of a repair to a council house or whether or not the repair was completed within the required timescale. This was exactly the sort of requirements that DataPA was developed to meet. DataPA allows the Council to reuse the complex calculations that were already part of their business systems. This meant that the end users were able to access that calculated information via a reporting solution for the first time.

With over 4,000 repairs issued each week generating 40,000 related records the reports also needed to be scaleable. As DataPA uses the Progress Application Server to deliver the data it provided improved performance in particular over the Council's wide area network.

Deploying DataPA was easy and quick. In a single day DataPA was set up against the system allowing the Council to see the functionality it had and how it could be used to solve their reporting problems. The Housing departments ad-hoc reporting requirements are now serviced by a single IT resource.

At the core of DataPA is the concept of the subject. A subject is simply set of fields, which together describe a particular aspect of a business.

It's purpose is to make it as easy as possible for end users to develop the reports and queries they need to meet the demands of their business.

The Council has a number of Progress based systems the largest of which is the Housing Management system (HSMS).

This system helps the council control every aspect in the provision of housing services. These include managing repairs, rent collection, house sales, right through to providing accommodation for homeless people.

Since 1999 North Lanarkshire Council have been at the forefront of Progress development utilising the very latest Progress technologies.

Their systems have used Progress's application server to provide a fully distributed environment. Having now upgraded to Progress OpenEdge 10 (OE10) they are making use of features such as the .NET user interface and Web service's for integration.

DataPA uses Open Client technology to provide fast an efficient integration with Microsoft's desktops applications such as Excel and Access.

DataPA fully supports OE10 and the DataPA migration to OE10 from Version 9 involved no extra work for the IT department North Lanarkshire Council.

"DataPA allows us to easily create reports that were impossible without the involvement of our IT department"

Eddie McCluskey, Team Leader,
Housing & Property Dept, North Lanarkshire Council.

"Not only can we create reports in a fraction of the time it previously took, we can build data sets that were just impossible with our previous solution"

Frank Mainzer, CTO, DataSwiss Solutions AG

"Solving the problem of sluggish reporting over WAN's and the Internet has become more urgent. DataPA we believe is the first to make the breakthrough"

Frank McLroy, Vice President EMEA, Progress Software

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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