

SANTILLANA SUCCESS STORY

Santillana optimises its business analysis with Microsoft SSAS and Power BI



Country or Region: Spain

Sector: Education

Santillana's profile

Santillana is a Spanish company specialising in the creation of quality educational editorial content. They publish books that encompass all education stages from infants, juniors, seniors, and college, as well as training courses. They provide quality and accurate educational resources using the right images and language to help grasp the content better. Currently operating from the national territory, they publish material in all official languages as well as abroad, including Latin America and non Spanish

speaking countries including Brazil, US, Portugal and UK.

Purpose of this project

Their IT department was committed to find an analytical, Microsoft based BI solution to carry out different types of analysis to help in the decision making process, as well as business monitoring from their headquarters.

Customer advantages

- Creation of an analytical BI solution that is fully scalable
- Power BI based reports for business monitoring and analysis

Solution

- Consolidation system for sensitive analysis data

- Creation of a multidimensional model to cover the company's data exploitation
- Power BI based analysis reports for specific company users and Microsoft Excel with accounting reports for the Accounts Department.

Summary

Amount of data bases	1
Data base size	+1 GB
Business processes Involved	Analytical solution, user management
Daily processing time	~1 hours
Amount of indicators created	~300
Data base server	Microsoft SQL Server
Viewing options	Power BI

Santillana is an educational company focusing on different areas, from infant school texts to R&D projects, including the development of digital learning tools and other social issues. Due to the large amount of variables involved, there was a need to create a unified system to analyse the business as a whole.

Although a dynamic group that aims to be self sufficient in regards to business intelligence, Santillana has on this occasion engaged SolidQ services in order to obtain the required knowledge to exploit the core of their own analytical BI system.

By implementing their new solution, Santillana has now obtained a platform with centralised and consolidated business data and user management, as well as different analytical reports. These analytical reports are evolving, with the addition of new analysis requirements arising from their use.

Current situation

Santillana was lacking an analytical system that provided the assistance needed for data analysis and review. Due to the importance of security in this model, we have created an automated data authorisation system for those individuals who use the data. Currently, this information is obtained from a series of Microsoft SQL Server data bases which provides support to the analytical tier via several data transformations and enrichment.

Project requirements:

- Providing a unified platform in order to centralise the data
- Providing reports for the rest of business users
- Providing an analytical system for all branch directors, managers and delegates
- Evolution, support and maintenance
- Managing data access security

Solution

Their solution was dealt with in two stages. Phase one:

- Data source enrichment system
- Exploiting company data

- Creating of a multidimensional model to cover the users data exploitation
- Power BI based analysis reports to analyse and review the data for the rest of company users
- Using communication tools such as Planner or O365 in order to simplify the monitoring of tasks, as well as the control in the definition of requirements and documentation

There will be a second phase for this project, which will focus on system maintenance as well as its evolution:

- New requirements arise to exploit the new data included in the Data Warehouse
- New requirements by users to include new indicators in the Power BI reports
- Maintenance and evolution of the platform user access management, establishing security rules
- Incident resolution

A solution consisting of Microsoft SQL Server Analysis Services was deployed to deal with and process information on a daily basis in approximately an hour. It can also carry out maintenance and review of the Power BI preview as and when required.

“Yes, without a doubt, it allows us to analyse the data faster and makes our decision making process a lot more flexible”

Carlos Muñoz. Commercial Information and Logistics Manager

Advantages

This platform simplifies the consolidation and centralisation of the company's data into a single, corporate analytical system.

It provides users with a PowerBI based solution that extracts data from the Cube in order to analyse and enable users to create better reports for the rest of the company, providing support for the decision making and business monitoring process.

“Among the main advantages and improvements on the analytical tier, we can highlight the improved speed when it comes to run reports and the ability to have a different view of the business than we previously had. Also, how fast it is to design a report from the analytical tier.”

Carlos Muñoz. Commercial Information and Logistics Manager



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Software y Services

- ◇ SQL Server Data Tools
- ◇ Microsoft SQL Server Standard Edition (64-bit)
- ◇ Microsoft Excel 2013
- ◇ Power BI

For more information

SolidQ
<https://www.solidq.com>
(800) 757 6543

Northwinds I 2475 Northside Parkway
Suite 525 Alpharetta, Ga. 30009