NATS Anonymizes Sensitive ERP Data Enabling Full Control of Development & Change Lifecycle

"With TDO, we have the ability to keep our SAP landscape up to date to provide assurance for our user testing and to address the challenges we had with securing our test data; meeting internal compliance for data protection while reducing the time it takes to get projects underway with external partners."

Emma Chambers, Head of NIBS Business Process & Activity Management, NATS

NATS

SNP I The Data Transformation Company

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At a glance

About NATS

NATS, formerly National Air Traffic Services, is the UK's leading provider of air traffic control services, handling more than 2.4 million flights and 250 million passengers in UK airspace each year.

In addition to providing services to 14 UK airports, and managing all the upper airspace in the UK, NATS provides services around the world spanning Europe, the Middle East, Asia and North America.

Industry
Airspace

Headquarters
Whiteley, England

Revenue
£823 million

Employees
+4,000

The Challenge

With the pressures of GDPR compliance, NATS needed to be able to anonymize sensitive corporate data stored within the SAP enterprise platform. Being unable to do it easily meant that NATS teams were having to do full security assessments, applying the same level of security to the non-productive SAP environments as they did to the live systems. This was time consuming, slowing down critical projects and hindering progress. On top of this, they were not getting the full value from their non-productive environments. Creating test data via the SAP system copy process was costing them considerable time and effort. Furthermore, running their SAP systems on a HANA database meant that as their database grew, so too did their hosting costs. They needed to rein in the size of their non-productive environment and save substantial infrastructure costs fast.

The Solution

NATS researched options to address the data sensitivity, provision and cost challenges and chose SNP's CrystalBridge Test Data Organizer (TDO). TDO was deployed for the two larger SAP landscapes: SAP ECC and SAP BW. One of the first benefits that NATS was able to quickly realize was the anonymization of sensitive and personal data across both systems. This has helped the company meet its requirements regarding the GDPR and has also meant that projects could get underway much quicker because it is possible to make environments available to third parties without exposing sensitive data.

Thanks to TDO, NATS uncovered certain personal data being stored in places where they were not expecting it. This has proved an unexpected benefit, prompting questions regarding the data quality and helping to improve the overall approach to the testing strategy.

NATS previously created test data the standard way via the SAP system copy process. Using TDO, they can now transfer the required master data and transactional data from source to target systems without the usual time, effort and impact on the source system, or on the project itself. The software solution has improved data consistency, enhanced test data quality and significantly reduced runtimes compared with system copies.

The Benefits

- Ability to decrease the size of the non-productive environments by more than 50%
- Ability to create data slices and reduce hosting costs
- Compliance with the GDPR and internal data security standards
- Reduced downtime for the production system
- Improved the test strategy and challenged the way NATS has typically approached testing

Facts and Figures

Project Type

Test Data Organization

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Highlights

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Scope

Anonymization of sensitive and personal data across both systems, to meet GDPR requirements and internal compliance standards. Improve test strategy and challenge the way NATS has typically approached testing. Assess the size of their non-productive environment and save substantial infrastructure costs.

Industry
Airspace

SAP licenses
6,300

Locations
UK plus over 30 countries overseas

Systems in scope
SAP ECC & SAP BW

Contract duration
Perpetual

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SNP Product

CrystalBridge® Test Data Organizer (TDO)