

## SUCCESS STORY N° 3



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# Quick wins with performance analysis

## Allgäuer Überlandwerk flood of data under control

Regional energy supplier Allgäuer Überlandwerk (AÜW) had faced considerable performance issues. Nightly data loading processes were delayed and response times for queries were unacceptable. AÜW benefited quickly from Datavard. Remote performance analysis BW Fitness Test™ determined

within two days which long-running programmes were responsible. During the ensuing workshop Datavard and AÜW IT-specialists addressed the primary issues directly in the system and shared their knowhow to best handle future performance challenges.

*“I was impressed how quickly and precisely Datavard analysed the weak spots and solved performance problems. Within one week, performance had noticeably improved.”*

Reinhold Haibel,  
Allgäuer Überlandwerk

### AT A GLANCE

#### Challenge:

Delays during the nightly loading processes, poor query performance

#### Solution:

Datavard BW Fitness Test™ reveals weak spots and improvement possibilities

#### Results:

- Acceleration of central queries during the workshop
- Reduction of nightly loading processes by several hours
- 12% unused data deleted
- Transfer of knowledge

# AÜW seeks solution to help themselves

## Dividing IT-systems afflicts Business Warehouse



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The Allgäuer Überlandwerk (AÜW) is one of the biggest regional energy providers in Allgäu supplying energy to 94,000 private and business customers. The energy provider based in Kempten supplied 1,060.9 m kWh in 2013. The company employs 308, with 300 ERP users in administration and distribution, financing, financial accounting, purchasing, material management, energy data management and gas and electricity billing. All-

gäu GmbH & Co KG was founded in 2005 as a result of the new law. Abiding the new regulations required unbundling the grid and energy distribution which also made it necessary to separate the IT system, however while sharing a joint Business Warehouse. Due to continual increase in data, performance problems were affecting daily business. "The data loading processes from ERP to our BW system took until late morning and the response times of up to

a minute were no longer acceptable", Reinhold Haibel, responsible for the Business Warehouse, explains. The IT department looked for a solution, to solve the performance problems quickly and without additional expenses. As Reinhold Haibel was the only person dealing with the Business Warehouse project in the beginning, it was of particular importance to keep time required to a minimum.

# Tailored solution, little time expenditure

## Background analysis with BW Fitness Test™

The tool of choice was BW Fitness Test™ by software and consulting company Datavard. “The Datavard solution suited our needs perfectly: a performance analysis with an action plan and an in-house workshop, without additional cost and little time expenditure,” Reinhold Haidel explains. Datavard developed the application as a standard product

to analyse and improve running SAP BW systems. BW Fitness Test™ combines an automated in-depth analysis with benchmarking of more than 250 SAP systems of international companies. The analysis identifies strengths and weaknesses of the Business Warehouse and then generates implementable recommendations. The data volume, performance of re-

ports and queries, data quality and system utilisation is evaluated. AÜW’s project target was to find and remove all weak spots in the system thereby reducing response times to a matter of seconds. Including, acceleration of nightly data loading processes ideally completed by 7 am.

# Bottleneck identified

## Unused data slowed down system

Firstly, Datavard performed an in-depth analysis on three critical process chains identified by AÜW. The performance check ran in the background for 2 days via OSS, while AÜW continued their daily work uninterrupted. During the ensuing three day in-house workshop, Datavard presented the in-depth analysis results with specific recommendations. BW

Fitness Test™ determined that 33% info provider data was over 2 years old. Temporary data such as PSA and change logs occupied more than 35% of the system size. With regard to housekeeping strategy and cube compression, BW Fitness Test™ identified improvement potential. The primary recommendations were implemented directly in the system by

Reinhold Haibel and a Datavard consultant. The database size was rapidly reduced through cube compression and deleting PSA. Further recommendations were implemented by AÜW themselves during daily business. All in all, the project only took 5 days, including implementing most improvement recommendations.

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*“With BW Fitness Test™ we were able to achieve considerable improvements with a minimal investment of time and, on top of that, build up knowhow for intelligent data management“*

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**Reinhold Haibel,**  
Allgäuer Überlandwerk

# Improvements immediately noticeable

## Acceleration from minutes to seconds

With the help of BW Fitness Test™ the key time consumers were identified and rapid performance improvement was realised. "We were able to accelerate the central queries considerably within a week. They now take a matter of seconds. The nightly loading processes were reduced by hours," Reinhold Haibel reports. At the same time, a sustainable transfer of knowledge occurred. "As the

training was conducted directly in our system, we were able to gain a lot of knowhow in a short amount of time. I was surprised at the potential savings that were possible through such easy measures," Reinhold Haibel sums up. BW Fitness Test™ was used a second time, after the recommended actions had been implemented, to check the effects on the system. The result: with the help

of the implemented measure, 12% of the unused data was removed. With regard to cube compression and the composition of the aggregates, improvements were seen here, too. "The results have shown that we are on the right track, but we have yet to meet all our targets," explains Reinhold Haibel.

## Conclusion

### "Stay on the ball"

"The verdict is in. BW Fitness Test™ has convinced us completely and with minimal investment of time yielding considerable improvements," Reinhold Haibel concludes. "We want to stay on the ball, as we have yet to implement all the measures which were iden-

tified to improve performance." The plan is to establish a sustainable information-lifecycle-management strategy. In future, data are to be consequently classified according to use and significance with unnecessary data to be removed on a regular basis.



Allgäuer Überlandwerk (AÜW) is a regional, German energy supplier focused on southern Swabia (in particular a large part of Allgäu) as well as a share of the energy supply Kleinwalsertal in the neighbouring Austrian Kleinwalsertal. The company of 308 is located in Kempten and with its 94,000 private and business customers is one of the biggest energy providers regionally in Allgäu. It supplied 1,060.9 m kWh in 2013. It produced 74GWh in its own run-of-river hydropower plant in 2013.



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