

SUCCESS STORY N° 6



ŠKODA shrinks SAP BW by 1.5 TB

Full speed ahead to SAP HANA with Datavard OutBoard™ for Analytics

ŠKODA AUTO a.s., the Czech car manufacturer, plans to introduce SAP HANA, In-memory solution, medium term. To ensure that they are perfectly prepared system wise, IT has already introduced a nearline storage solution (NLS), Datavard OutBoard™ for Analytics. The project goal was to sustainably minimize the system size

and cut costs. NLS filters data according to age and operational relevance and thus enables an ongoing monitoring of data growth and expenditure. At a compression rate of 87%, 1.5 TB of data was cut during the project. A further advantage: the query performance was improved by 20%.

“Thanks to Datavard OutBoard™ for Analytics we are perfectly prepared for SAP HANA. The system was reduced by 1.5 TB and the query response has improved significantly. This has accelerated the flow of information for business decisions.”

Radek Ledecký,
ŠKODA AUTO

AT A GLANCE

Challenges:

Data growth, optimize BW system for HANA migration

Solution:

Datavard OutBoard™ for Analytics

Results:

- NLS cuts 1.5 TB
- Query performance improved by 20%
- Compression rate: 87% (from 1.46 GB to 0.19 GB)
- System is prepared for HANA migration

System size influences operation

NLS archiving minimalizes risks



When migrating to SAP HANA, preparation is everything. Intelligent data management and information lifecycle management, particularly regarding licensing costs, are fundamental. The big question: which data are worth retaining in real time in the main storage? This was the question that ŠKODA's IT asked themselves during their preparation phase. The company had

previously carried out a business impact analysis and discovered

that their system size created a potential risk if the system had to be rebuilt. "The bigger the system, the greater the challenges with rebuilding it, especially as the prognosis for future growth did not look good", ŠKODA's Business analyst for SAP applications and project manager Vojtech Mikát explains. To minimize these and future risks and to be perfectly prepared for HANA migration, IT initiated a NLS project. In a selection procedure together with three certified SAP partners for NLS solutions, Datavard OutBoard™ for Analytics won the tender. This archiving solution filters data according to operational relevance and archives them in highly compressed (up to 95%) data storage. IT experts agreed that the project goals should include a reduction in database size, acceleration of reporting by 20% and a decrease in the long-term business warehouse costs.

"We were really won over by the functionalities and the fact that this solution is completely programmed in ABAP, meaning it could be directly integrated into our system. Rapid implementation, the price, and last but not least, onsite support also played a part."

Radek Ledecký,
ŠKODA AUTO

Analysis tools illustrate optimization potential

Historical data detected with HeatMap

To begin with, Datavard consultants carried out a system analysis of the Business Warehouse. Firstly, they used Datavard's analysis tool BW Fitness Test™. This combines an automated in-depth analysis with benchmarking which leverages data from various international companies' SAP systems. This analysis identifies BW system's strengths and weaknesses and creates action-oriented recommendations. Total data volume, reporting perfor-

mance, queries, data quality and full system capacity are checked. "We got a clear picture of possible savings and system improvements with BW Fitness Test™" explained Radek Ledecký, ŠKODA's SAP applications coordinator. The analysis showed that 9% of the objects took up 40% of the database. Change logs and PSAs in particular took up too much space in temporary data and 51% of requests were more than two years old.

Secondly, Datavard used HeatMap, which analyzes and illustrates the actual use and usages behavior. "HeatMap is an impressive instrument. Based on of this analysis, we were able to prove to users which tables were no longer required and could be archived", Vojtech Mikát describes the advantages. The data was classified into historical (cold) data and actively used (warm and hot) data based on these analyses.

Archived, compressed and readily available

NLS-Writer keeps archived data editable

The classification of data is the basis of nearline storage archiving. ŠKODA decided to use nearline repositories within the Business Warehouse system. Filing NLS data is done in specific compressed storage areas of the BW database. This means that ŠKODA's IT can run Datavard OutBoard™ for Analytics themselves, as archiv-

ing is not outsourced, but kept directly on the BW server. Those responsible for the project chose the 60 most important objects for nearline storage archiving. Up until then, these had taken up one third of the system size in the Business Warehouse. The goal was to archive this data at a compression rate of 80%, but

still have access to them. The integrated NLS-writer in Datavard OutBoard™ for Analytics made it possible to access archived data at all times and edit them. "The NLS-writer helped us to achieve the set goals", explained Radek Ledecký.

NLS archiving successfully completed

Smaller system, quicker access to information

Implementing the NLS solution ran smoothly and was completed within 6 months. "Even during the implementation, we could see an improved runtime of online data by 20%", explained Vojtech Mikát. After reorganizing it was evident that the system size had been reduced from 6 to 4.5 TB after im-

plementing Datavard OutBoard™ for Analytics. The targeted compression rate was surpassed and reached 85%. The archived data was compressed from 1.46 GB to 0.19 GB. And the ETL processes were quicker, too. "We are very satisfied with the results. Not only did we reduce the system with

Datavard OutBoard™ for Analytics and accelerate the query reports, but we also improved information acquisition for decision making processes", Radek Ledecký sums up and adds: "Queries for strategic decisions are considerably faster, that saves time and money and ultimately increases profit".

Conclusion

Well prepared for SAP HANA

Everyone involved in the project is happy with the results. Radek Ledecký explains the advantages: "We did not have to install any additional hardware or software which would have made new knowhow necessary. Everything stays in one database and within the ABAP environment, a great relief to us, as

we can back up everything ourselves". And with regards to introducing SAP HANA, ŠKODA is well prepared. The storage management module for OutBoard™ for Analytics enables you to connect external databases, such as SAP IQ, Apache™ Hadoop® and existing content servers. In view of SAP HANA, relocating archive

data facilitates a considerable reduction of infrastructure and licensing costs.



For further information

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The company **ŠKODA AUTO a.s.**, based in Mladá Boleslav, is one of the most important industrial companies in the Czech Republic and one of the oldest car makers in the world. Currently ŠKODA AUTO employs more than 24,600 people. The ŠKODA brand has been part of the Volkswagen Group for more than 20 years. The Company's business activities are chiefly the development, production and sale of ŠKODA cars, components, original parts, accessories and

services. As at 28 June 2014 the sole shareholder of ŠKODA AUTO a.s. is VOLKSWAGEN FINANCE LUXEMBURG S.A., with its registered office in Luxembourg. VOLKSWAGEN FINANCE LUXEMBURG S.A. is a subsidiary of VOLKSWAGEN AG. ŠKODA AUTO has production plants in the Czech Republic. ŠKODA brand cars are manufactured also in China, Russia, India, Slovakia, the Ukraine and Kazakhstan.