



Shell

SOLVING A DATA MIGRATION CHALLENGE

Shell and Datavard succeeded in the direct migration between two NLS solutions



Image: Shell Flickr

SHELL – A LONGSTANDING BUSINESS WITH AN INNOVATIVE DATA MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Energy provider Shell runs one of the biggest BW systems in the world, used for storing and reporting on commercial and financial data. Because some data must be kept for 10 years and longer for legal reasons, Shell witnessed an exponential data growth.

The challenges posed by the data growth were well managed by the organization. A system scan ran by Datavard showed that Shell had successfully archived an estimated 270 TB of data, proving to be best in class when it comes to data management. And on top of that, Shell's efficient archiving strategy reduced their costs of running their system on SAP HANA.

But as the provider of the archiving system announced that their software would be discontinued, Shell was confronted with another challenge: moving the archived data into a new

storage system - without reloading data back into the BW system. This was a very demanding task, but Shell in collaboration with Datavard were able to master it successfully.



Datavard is a company which assigns technical experts to a certain customer in a very personal manner.

We could talk directly to the people who helped us immediately. We were never disappointed.

And we never waited more than 24 hours for an answer. This was extremely positive.

Dr. Ullrich Kessler,
Senior IT Project Manager,
Shell Deutschland Oil GmbH

CHALLENGES



- Migrating 270 TB of data from the discontinued NLS software to SAP IQ NLS
- The sheer data volume made it challenging to reload into BW (running on SAP HANA)
- Sharp deadline and limited resources for the migration

SOLUTION



- Enhanced Datavard Outboard solution for storage management
- Datavard Validate tool for automated data validation

ACHIEVEMENTS



- 270 TB of archived data migrated directly from the discontinued NLS software to SAP IQ NLS
- Zero downtime
- Reporting not affected
- Reduced monitoring effort: saved 2 months of work
- Validation of the migration process
- Keeping the deadlines
- Reduced project staff: only 2-3 Shell technicians managed the day-to-day migration activities

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS



- Improving the run time
- Decreased maintenance costs

HOW TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO CHALLENGING OPTIONS

Shell and Datavard needed to find a new strategy

Due to the discontinuation of the NLS software used by Shell, all archived data needed to be moved into a new NLS – and the solution of choice was SAP IQ.

A “conservative” approach in this case would be to import the data back into SAP BW and subsequently archive it into the new NLS. But, this method was bringing major challenges for Shell:



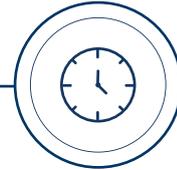
1. TOO MUCH DATA

There wasn't enough space in SAP BW to reload over 270 TB of archived data. Especially with the BW system running on SAP HANA, the reloading of data would have had a big impact on costs. Even if this would have been done in chunks of data it would have been a challenge and tedious task.



2. NOT ENOUGH RESOURCES

Sequential reload of data back to SAP BW would require too many resources and would affect the critical reporting tasks in the BW system.



3. NOT ENOUGH TIME

The upcoming discontinuation of the current NLS system, together with a fast-coming planned upgrade set an ambitious deadline for the migration.

Direct migration from one NLS solution to the other was considered difficult even by SAP (as posted in an SAP Note). Faced with two challenging options, Shell decided to find a provider who would make the direct migration possible.



GLOBAL COMPANY PARTNERED WITH NICHE PLAYER TO FIND AN INNOVATIVE SOLUTION

Technical expertise and flexibility were only two factors for success

As Shell was migrating to SAP IQ, and as the majority of Shell systems run on SAP, the chosen provider needed to be an SAP partner with extensive data management expertise. In the selection process, Datavard was chosen as the right partner.

Compared to Shell, Datavard might seem like a small player. However, regardless of their company size, **Datavard has proven to be one of the best providers globally for data management solutions. Datavard software is currently in use by some of the largest SAP customers around the world.**

Datavard provided even more benefits for Shell – factors that were critical for the efficient collaboration and a successful project.

Besides the technical expertise, another reason to choose Datavard was the existing good relationship between the teams. In 2016, Datavard ran a system scan (Datavard FitnessTest™) and proved to be very reliable, flexible and friendly. This gave Shell the security needed in such a critical project.

Much appreciated functionalities were the data scheduling and recovery – which made it possible to let the tool run around the clock, seven days a week, while supervised by only 2-3 technicians.

Datavard software is currently in use by some of the largest SAP customers around the world.

The flexibility was important for the commercial agreement too: Datavard offered the possibility of monthly payments for the solution provided. Moreover, instead of offering a full-service, costly solution, Datavard was ready to provide training and workshops which empowered the Shell team to run the project on their own.

That allowed the project manager Dr. Ullrich Kessler to migrate the old NLS solution into the new NLS SAP IQ solution. Four full-time project members and eight part-timers installed the software with the help of Datavard, ran data copies and validations and also made all required software changes and adjustments to the operational procedures so that data archiving and reporting would run seamlessly out of SAP IQ.

The software solution provided by Datavard had been specifically built and customized for use-cases like the Shell project. Data scheduling and recovery functionalities made it possible to let the tool run around the clock, seven days a week, while supervised by only 2-3 technicians. This provided consistent cost savings. To speed up the testing process, Shell used Datavard Validate software which compared data consistency before and after migration. This made the validation easier and ensured that all data was correctly migrated.

CLOSE COLLABORATION PAVED THE WAY TO A SMOOTH MIGRATION

Together, Shell and Datavard managed the challenge: migrating archived data directly from the discontinued NLS solution to SAP IQ. Both partners were very satisfied with the collaboration. Datavard had the opportunity to work with an experienced and talented technical team, while Shell could rely on a flexible partner who adapted quickly to the requirements and delivered an excellent support.



ABOUT SHELL

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