

Success Story

Challenging System Carve-Out and Migration to Microsoft Azure

Datavard and DXC partner up to complete a complex system carve-out for an Australian retail company. The project was completed ahead of schedule and with no business disruptions.



Extremely challenging system carve-out

An Australian retail company had to extract their New Zealand subsidiary (Net Xpress) to a separate hosting location. The goal was to carve out necessary data and move it to Microsoft Azure. The project had demanding requirements and posed many challenges.

The standard “clone-and-delete” approach was not possible due to the large size of the original ERP system (9TB). All HQ functions required decentralising by the new owners in less than 6 months, including the IT & ERP infrastructure. The downtime requirement for this project was reduced to only 16 hours.

Apart from the extremely complex IT environment and time spans, what made the situation even more challenging is that the two separated entities were to become competitors. This meant that ensuring data confidentiality between the Australian and New Zealand entities was very high on the agenda.



SOLUTION

Datavard Transformation Suite



CHALLENGES

- Demanding timeframe
- Complex IT environment and a larger (9TB) ERP system
- Strict data confidentiality requirements
- Downtime could not exceed 16 hours
- Standard carve-out approach not possible

“Many partners we approached declined to partake - they said it couldn’t be done. Net Xpress went live 5 days ahead of schedule, with no customer disruption and volumes traded more than 10% up during Q1.”

Joe Taylor
CEO
Net Xpress

Datavard and DXC take on the challenge

Datavard and DXC partnered up to run this complex project and support the retail company. Datavard was responsible for the complete technical delivery of the solution. For this project, we used the Datavard Transformation Suite, developed specifically for automating and expediting all kinds of transformations, including scenarios such as carve-outs, S/4HANA migrations, system harmonizations, Cloud Lift'n'Shift, and many more.

While the standard carve-out approach was not possible, Datavard opted for selecting and migrating a single Company Code and all underlying objects. Datavard consultants also enhanced the selection criteria based on countries and time to split migration into uptime and downtime migration. As a result, Datavard was able to significantly reduce the overall downtime.

Datavard automated and streamlined data carve-out for both ECC and BW, including system duplication via the lean system copy technology. In order to comply with confidentiality requirements, migration was a three step process, with a full copy of the source company landscape sent to a secure staging environment on Azure, whereby data was cleansed, reviewed, signed off, and released to the subsidiary for importing.

The carve-out is finished on time and in budget

After shutting down the systems five days ahead of schedule, Net Xpress was fully operational for the next business day. The downtime for data migration took only 13 hours and caused no business disruption. All sensitive information was successfully carved-out and safely migrated to MS Azure.

Whilst primary objective was separation, the platform is now ready to start digital transformation, including the adoption of S/4HANA, and realising business process improvements and higher degrees of automation for business efficiency. New customers are onboarded seamlessly, and volumes traded more than 10% up during the first quarter. Net Express now enjoys a robust platform ready for future growth.

“Datavard really know system landscape transformation inside out and the team are a breeze to work with.”

Theo Van Dijk
Principal Solution Architect
DXC

About Datavard

Datavard is an innovative provider of smart software solutions and consulting services for SAP data management, transformation of SAP systems, data warehouse modernization, Cloud migrations, decommissioning, integration of SAP data and big data, enabling ML and AI scenarios with SAP data and managed services. Datavard is headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany, with office in Europe, USA and Asia.

About DXC

DXC Technology is the world's leading business transformation company, helping customers harness the power of innovation to thrive on change. Born of the merger of CSC and the Enterprise Services business of Hewlett Packard Enterprise, DXC serves nearly 6,000 private and public-sector enterprises across 70 countries. DXC's technology independence, global talent, expertise, and extensive alliance of partners combine to deliver the most powerful end-to-end next-generation IT services and solutions.