

Case Study

WebSphere Information Integrator



"Not only did IBM offer the best available technology, they also brought a level of life sciences expertise, openness and commitment that has contributed to our success together so far."

Bruce McManus, PhD, MD, Co-Founder of the iCAPTURE4E Center

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Corporations have become more IT savvy and have shifted away from traditional pen and paper storage systems. As this has happened over many years, the format for storing data has changed as well as type of data. The result is a blend of data storage systems that are incompatible with each other and as a result, are of limited value. WebSphere Information Integrator by IBM provides the framework to integrate disparate databases to get more value from their data without investing in new data storage systems. By utilizing WebSphere Information Integrator, corporations now have the flexibility to make full use of their data.

The Issue - Corporations have in the past stored data in systems that are specific to the business process they are trying to accommodate. Such decisions on which data storage system to use are typically made at the division level which means that different divisions may end up using different systems based on price and availability. Combined with an inability to search across all these systems means that often times, corporations reinvent the wheel as they are unable to determine if another division has accomplished a similar task. With duplicate data, incompatible systems and a lack of enterprise search capabilities, corporations find it difficult to maximize the accessibility of the information within their knowledge base.

The Products - In order to get more value from existing data, IBM has introduced WebSphere Information Integrator to harness the data corporations keep in various systems. WebSphere Information Integrator is designed to not only federate corporate data, but also provide an easy-to-use enterprise search and data transformation features to provide for better utilization of knowledge.

IBM offers the WebSphere Information Integrator in many different editions which can be tailored to your corporate environment so you get the most out of your data. For example, the OmniFind edition provides a scalable enterprise search mechanism to find data in any system once it is federated by WebSphere Information Integrator. In contrast, the Developer edition provides a low-cost alternative while still providing the basic functionality necessary to federate data.

WebSphere Information Integrator has the ability to build a unified data storage mechanism across an entire enterprise at a fraction of the cost of redeploying multiple data systems.

The Uses - One example where WebSphere Information Integrator is used is the iCAPTURE4E Center at the McDonald Research Laboratories in Vancouver, Canada. The iCAPTURE4E Center required a system that could aggregate data, provide analysis and query tools, scale as required all within a secure environment. By utilizing WebSphere Information Integrator, the iCAPTURE4E Center was able to federate and query data from multiple sources as if they were a single database. As a result, they were able to analyze the interrelationships between clinical and demographic data of a medical condition far easier than before. By generating more meaningful results from diverse databases, it reduced research time to compare correlations between data sets.

Case Study provided by IBM.

Accessible Sources via WebSphere Information Integrator -

- DB2
- Oracle
- Informix
- SQL
- Lotus Domino
- FileNet
- Stellent
- SAP
- Documentum
- PeopleSoft
- Siebel