SUCCESS STORY

« EVALUATION, DOCUMENTATION AND MAPPING OF A DATABASE FOR MIGRATION PURPOSES »

- » *Gaining Data Transparency by a deep-dive into your data models*
- » *Identification of relevance and potential of data*
- » *Creating state-of-the-art documentation of your data architecture*

Initial Situation

A middle-sized company, providing online data services has been on the market for almost 15 years and in that time gathered huge amounts of data. Because of changes in staff and constantly increasing amounts of data, the database grew very big and became very unclear and confusing for users of different roles. It was impossible for employees to reconstruct origin and purpose of majority of the tables. If the knowledge and understanding was there, it was very fractured amongst employees in different departments / projects. Mostly it wasn't known who is responsible for what data.

The company was facing a major refresh in data infrastructure, data migration into the cloud, and building brand new data models. For that the existing data situation needed to be taken apart, analyzed, evaluated, and mapped into the new data model.

Actions - Methodology and Technology

In order to support the client in gaining more understanding and documentation of their database structure, DATANOMIQ could do a whole bunch of actions:

- Investigating data in database and tracking data flows in the operational systems.
- Reconstructing and building examples for data flows.
- Finding and marking redundancies in the data – defining single source of truth in data.
- Defining how to classify the data, based on input from project management and company employees.
- Development of evaluation metrics and proxies for data validation.
- Building Entity Relationship Models (ERM) using yED.

- Investigation included also interviews with employees scattered among different departments of the company, to gather their knowledge and experience regarding the data content, structure, and function.
- Flagging sensitive data for migration purposes.

Successes and Results

After our investigation and documentation, data got well documented both graphically and with text and the documentation can now be used as a reliable reference.

More than 60% of tables stored in the databases that were analyzed turned out to be completely out of date and not important. Excluding them substantially reduced the amount of the data and complexity of the model that needed to be migrated.

Remaining data was mapped into the goal pre-defined structure of Microsoft Common Data Model.

What this means for you

Documentation is often the most neglected part of any project. Missing documentation often means a show stopper for new plans and projects. And especially data migration is a daunting process that requires separating what is important from what is not.

In some cases it is a good idea to ask an external data consultant to create a documentation, since he or she has no assumptions and little knowledge, therefore will ask about every detail and will not omit thing by taking them for granted. Furthermore the right consultant supports you with knowledge about data cleaning and modelling as well as best-practices how to create data architectures and migration processes.

Are you generally interested in Data Modelling, Cleaning and getting more Data Transparency? Would you like to discuss an individual problem with us? Visit us at **www.datanomiq.io** or send us an email to **info@datanomiq.de**.