SQDR Powers Data Intelligence Center with Real-time Data Replication

The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) is a national non-profit committed to environmental preservation and hunting heritage. Since 1973, the organization has expanded its mission through national fundraising banquets and membership efforts, growing to 2,350 chapters nationally. Historically, all local membership and accounting information was stored and distributed on the main iSeries in South Carolina.

The few iSeries "power users" on staff wrote various queries for all the departments at the NTWF and were increasingly overwhelmed with requests. They needed to make query data accessible to non-tech staff to free them up to focus on more strategic tasks. Gregory R. Werner, IT Director explains, "Our users have come to expect Windows-like functionality, not a green screen. We wanted to get the data out and make it accessible to all chapters in a user-friendly way."

National Wild Turkey Federation
Edgefield, SC
www.nwtf.org

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RESULTS

The IT team saved at least 25% of their time running queries

The StarQuest + Tableau solution created a data intelligence center, streamlining all NWTF operations

With department managers able to access the data intelligence center, they have more time to focus on increasing membership and donations

Need

The NWTF needed a simple SQL-based reporting tool, so they implemented the business intelligence and analytics visualization software, Tableau. At first, the iSeries data was pulled to SQL server using ODBC, but as Werner explains, "we were having difficulty aggregating the data and making it accessible across our member organizations." The management team needed an expedient way to distribute vital business data across departments without depending on overtaxed employees or IT managers.

Solution

The NWFT contacted StarQuest, and in less than a day, **SQDR** was replicating data from the iSeries to SQL Server. Using Tableau, the IT department created personalized departmental dashboards and preconfigured reports. In a few simple steps, the IT department went from manual report generation to an automated data replication system that produced visually accessible reports.

Benefits

SQDR reduces IT workload. With **SQDR,** the IT "power users" saved at least 25% of their time, enabling them to devote attention to other responsibilities. Greg Werner explains, "It's set it and forget it. I no longer need to babysit the data. I go in there and everything is green and working, giving us the confidence that the replication is happening under the surface and giving us up-to-the-second data."

SQDR connects disparate data sets. As a national non-profit, tracking local membership and donation information is a top priority. With the previous infrastructure and limited out-of-the-box SQL reporting tools, the NWTF did not have the ability to link donations from membership sign ups to the general ledger and then back to the local events and initiatives. "Now the local chapters know who their members are, along with their individual contributions."

SQDR delivers data for big picture decisions. The real-time replication component allows board members to make accurate and swift management decisions. **SQDR** gives the management staff the ability to make comprehensive decisions based on local finances and membership details. And the regional membership managers can get a complete representation of activity in their area and drive development. As Werner sums up, "We can't ask the questions and improve if we can't see the data. That's why the data availability is the biggest thing for us."

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