

Bridging Data Islands at Sun Microsystems

Sun Microsystems, an \$11B company, has been a world leader in creating the vital software and hardware technologies which power the infrastructure of both businesses and the Web.

At Sun, Hyperion Essbase has been the worldwide standard for analytics and forecasting for 11 years. Over time, each geographic region of the company has independently developed its own actuals and planning cubes, creating isolated data islands which made it very difficult to consolidate a worldwide plan or actuals data for reporting.

In addition, extracting and collating the relevant information from these separate cubes was

“Exports were a snap using Star Integration Server.”

performed each month using a manual process, involving a complex sequence of data exports, Perl scripts and lookup tables. This process was slow, labor-intensive, not scalable, and costly to maintain. Clearly, they needed a better solution.

According to one of Sun's Essbase Administrators, “It was a real pain to manage all the scripts, and if anything failed we would



have to run the whole process again, impacting the timely delivery of data for reporting by the Finance group.”

So the Finance Group at Sun launched an initiative to automatically standardize and synchronize each of these separate cubes with a uniform chart of accounts and cost centers, and provide a central reporting database with accurate and consistent structures and data. Naturally they were also anxious to find a practical approach to bridging these data islands quickly and easily.

In order to do this, Sun created a new fully automated process using Star Integration Server™ (SIS) from Star Analytics. This process involves a series of exports from the individual Essbase cubes, which are then used to generate a “staging cube” to facilitate cross-mapping of the different cube structures and naming conventions. The data in the staging cube is then automatically extracted, again using SIS, and finally loaded into a master cube for reporting and analysis within the Finance group.

“The exports were a snap using SIS,” says Sun's Lead Essbase Administrator. “We just set up all the data sources and destinations, and created a SIS Selection for each data path. Now it runs overnight with almost no intervention at all.”

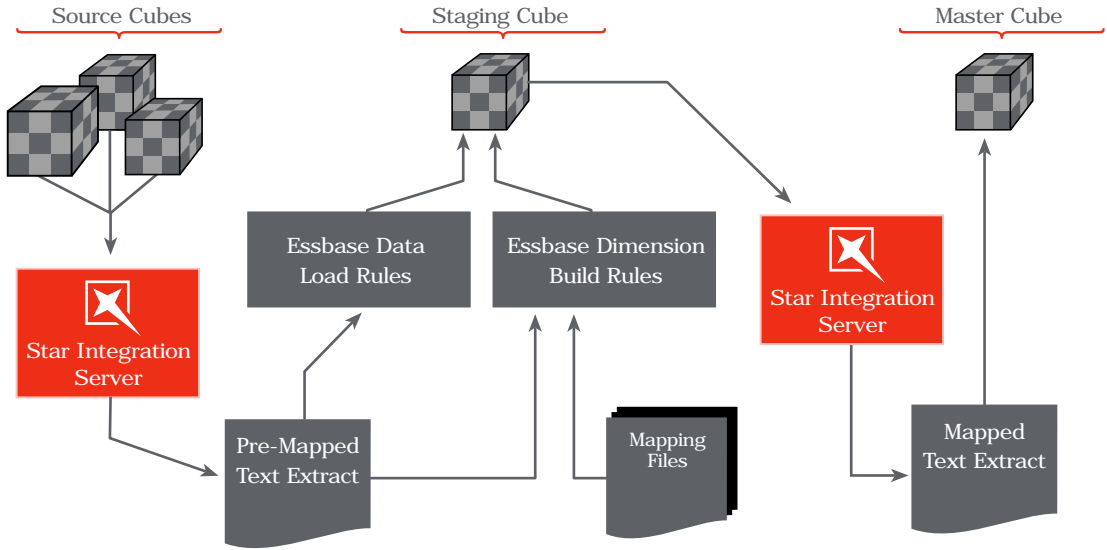
Now the Sun Finance group can be sure they always have timely and consistent summary data from all geographic regions, using the same reporting structures, accounts, and cost centers. At the same time they have significantly lowered their maintenance costs. In addition, the Essbase Administrators now have more time to focus on other things — like enhancing the existing Essbase models and calc scripts.

A bonus effect of using SIS is that the existing cubes can now remain online during the

extraction process, so Sun Finance personnel in different time zones around the world can continue using their cubes without any interruption.

Sun truly believes in the value of SIS. It has proven itself a winner repeatedly, and continues to save them an incredible amount of time and money.

Sun Microsystems' Essbase Mapping



Sun's Essbase Data Mapping process, showing data extractions from multiple Essbase cubes via a Staging Cube to a Master Reporting Cube, using Star Integration Server.

To learn more about Star Integration Server, please contact Star Analytics: (866) 756-7827 (USA) or +1 650-331-3281 (International), or www.staranalytics.com.