CASE
STUDY

World's Largest Bedding
Provider Simplifies and
Automates Data Upload
Process Enhancing
Productivity

CUSTOMER PROFILE

The company is the world's largest bedding provider. The company develops, manufactures and markets mattresses, adjustable bases, pillows and other sleep and relaxation products which it sells globally in approximately 100 countries.

The company is headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky and its brand portfolio includes many of the most highly recognized brands in the industry.

The Company sells its products through three distribution channels in each operating business segment: Retail, which consists of furniture and bedding retailers, department stores, specialty retailers and warehouse clubs; Direct, which consists of electronic commerce (e-commerce) platform, Company-owned stores and call centre, and other, which includes third party distributors, hospitality and healthcare customers.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

The company used various tools such as DIEF, Atlas etc. for importing data in to MS Dynamics AX. These tools did not provide mark-able performance and had several drawbacks as described below:

DIEF/DIXF:
- It has complex table integrity structure.
- Users can work only on predefined entities.
- All system MS Dynamics AX fields are not covered for a particular entity. System generated field such as invent Dim Id, serial numbers are not handled by the tools giving compatibility issues on different environments. Template data gets blanked out if system generated fields such as inventDimId were used.
- Complexity with template field mappings and their relationships with target tables.
- As DIEF requires moving of data from source to staging tables the process was hectic and time consuming.
- Difficulties in update operations to find which data is actually created as it mentions only the number of records created not the REC ID. Lookup of system tables were to be performed with excel sheet.

Atlas:
- Fields which were not covered by DIEF or fields with complex table structures were imported using Atlas.
- Table relationship or referential integrity had to be searched in MS Dynamics AX and if it consisted of merging two or more tables then it was mandatory to specify a primary key value in the template.
- Update, append, merge, find and replace functionalities did not maintain data integrity. For update operation if there were no unique key values in the table then users had to search for the recId's in the system and update it based on RECID.
- It is not compatible on all environments.
- It did not cover referential integrity validations, master validations, data type validations and validations specific to MS Dynamics AX/ Business.
- All the above factors led to a conclusion of creating a new data upload utility tool as customizing the existing tools would still not have given a mark-able performance and violated best practices to customize the standard classes.

CASE STUDY

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SOLUTION

After a detailed requirement analysis conducted by NDS Global Microsoft Dynamics AX team, NDS came up with the Data upload utility tool solution. Key points of this solution is as below.

A) TOOL NAVIGATION:

A new menu to be created for data upload utility tool in the data import export framework module. It should contain a menu for creating a template and a second menu for directing to the staging tables.

B) CREATE TEMPLATE FOR DATA IMPORT:

The create template for data import menu will allow users to create an excel template by selecting few fields which are to be imported. All the mandatory fields required for upload have to be considered in the template selection form.

The wizard form will have a processing Id it will be unique transaction ID which is a system generated field. It has an entity selection option which will contain all the entities required for upload.

The wizard form should contain an entity field selection page which will allow users to select fields required in the excel template. It must consider all the mandatory fields.

A path must be provided for storing the excel sheet and the sheet must have a unique name.

C) PROCESSING FORM:

The processing form will contain details of the transaction Id such as the entity used, template name and the user Id. The processing form will allow users to view staging table particular to their entity by using the "view staging " button as shown in below figure .

D) STAGING TABLE FORM:

The staging table form will contain a pre staging grid and a post staging grid. The pre-staging grid will contain all the records imported using the SQL import export framework. This grid will be used for validating and editing the records using a validation button.

All the validations such as referential integrity validations, master validations, data type validations and validations specific to AX Business functions will be covered.

The post staging grid will contain a "push data" button which will create batches based on the number of records. After the records are processed the form will update the records by processed sign in the left hand side of the prestaging form.

NDS Global followed a standardised customization and integration methodology that ensured control, quality, and repeatability for many of the core upgrade activities. This process was then modified to fit the customer's unique needs based on their internal skill sets and capabilities.

BENEFITS

Fills the GAP between business processes.

Data upload utility is a tool that allows users to import data into MS Dynamics AX, maintaining database consistency and integrity using various technology stacks. The tool overcomes hitches faced by the users for data upload and provides great core software abilities as that of the traditional approaches considering factors such as performance, scalability, flexibility and robustness.

Automated processes result in improved worker productivity.

Data upload utility tool is automated the processes in such way that minimal interaction is needed. All the process are batch enable which enhance the productivity of worker.

TECHNOLOGY

Reflection Framework
Wizard Framework
Batch Framework

ABOUT NDS GLOBAL

NDS Global, a trusted Microsoft Gold Partner, offers its customers consulting, implementation, development and support services on Enterprise, Cloud & Mobility for digital solutions.

NDS Global helps customers realize results in a digital world through business technology solutions, cloud and managed services that combine insight, innovation and expertise focused on Microsoft technologies.

Our solutions span across Microsoft Project Online, Microsoft CRM Online, Microsoft SharePoint Online, Office 365, Dynamics 365, Microsoft Dynamics AX, PowerBI & Azure.

Headquartered in the US since 1999, we are preferred partners to customers in USA and India. Our customers span across Consumer Goods, BFSI, Infrastructure, Manufacturing, IT/ITES, and Retail.

A strong team of 180+ Microsoft consultants have provided many a success stories to Enterprise & Small/Medium customers globally.

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