

## Silwood Technology Limited



Safyr is a powerful tool for looking into these enterprise applications. Technical and business users alike will find it easier to explore and discover their data structures.

### Project Summary:

A leading privately-held oil and gas company decided to improve the way in which the vast amounts of data was analysed, manipulated and disseminated, and implemented Safyr to bring tables and information from SAP and SAP Business Warehouse in order to supply metadata to underpin various projects.

The company has also implemented a metadata management solution based around the Adaptive Metadata Manager, using Safyr to move data into its Oracle Designer product as the integration point and then on to the Adaptive Metadata Manager.

Safyr provides the client with the ability to identify source and target metadata within its SAP systems and answer data lineage questions using its Adaptive Metadata Manager repository tool which also holds metadata from other tools, including the Informatica ETL tool.

## Taking control of data management

When the IT department of a large US oil and gas company was tasked with improving the way in which vast amounts of data were analysed, manipulated and disseminated, it investigated a number of tools that would enable users to explore, document and visualise data structures for its large SAP(r) enterprise application, before deciding to implement Safyr.

Developed by Silwood Technology - a world leader in data management, modelling and metadata tools and solutions that enable enterprise architects and data modellers to explore, document and visualise data structures of large Enterprise Application Packages - Safyr is a simple but powerful tool that makes the exploration and utilisation of Enterprise Application metadata practical for technical and non-technical users, helping users understand and utilise the metadata in major ERP applications more easily.

In addition to providing detailed metadata information on sophisticated application packages to ensure the successful implementation of Data Lineage, Business Intelligence, Enterprise Architecture, MDM, SOA and other integration projects, Safyr allows users to build up their own domain knowledge of complex application packages in support of key projects such as BI, Data Lineage, SOA, Enterprise Architecture, MDM and EAI.

### Understanding SAP tables and definitions

Initially, the oil and gas company's requirement was for an application that would allow non-SAP users to understand SAP tables and definitions and intended to use Safyr to import tables and information from SAP and Business Warehouse and supply metadata to underpin various projects across the company. Some of the major requirements were for a solution that would remove the need to scan the underlying SAP physical tables, allow users to select which tables to scan, and carry across descriptive business names.

"Most data related projects involve a vital scoping phase to work out which tables and relationships have to be accessed for the job in hand," explained Graham Simpson, Silwood Technology's Managing Director. "A major issue for this particular organisation was the sheer size and sophistication of the data structures, which made task of importing these vast amounts of data extremely complex."

Having successfully implemented Safyr to address these objectives, the company realised that the powerful features, functionalities and capabilities that Safyr delivered could be extended across other application areas. As well as gaining a far greater insight and understanding of the specific metadata management and dissemination objectives that were critical to the organisation's ongoing growth and profitability, the internal IT team recognised that Safyr could become a component part of a second project - to bring in a Metadata Repository - though its ability to expose underlying metadata tables and relationships, and show lineage in metadata repositories.

"The company has now implemented a metadata management solution based around the Adaptive Metadata Manager(tm) - a web-based repository designed for use in metadata management which provides the capability to capture the data definitions from data modelling tools, relational databases, etc," continued Graham Simpson.

"This new Metadata Repository allows it to 'stitch' the tables and views defined in its Informatica ETL tool to tables defined in the actual database tables."

### End-to-end data lineage

Using Oracle Designer as the integration point, the company now moves data from Safyr into Oracle Designer and then on to the Adaptive Metadata Manager, which gives it the ability to scan some of the metadata for the enterprise logical model, physical database, Informatica ETL and BusinessObjects reports, to provide end-to-end data lineage to the technical and business user communities.

"Safyr helps the client identify source and target metadata within its SAP systems and answer data lineage questions using its Adaptive Metadata Manager repository tool, which also holds metadata from other tools, including the Informatica ETL tool," added Graham Simpson. "By using Safyr to load Oracle Designer and then export that metadata into the Metadata Repository, the client no longer needs to scan the underlying SAP physical tables, can limit which tables are to be scanned, and has the business names in the description of the table."

The Safyr-based solution delivers a number of benefits and has saved the company a considerable amount of effort in understanding, managing and utilising its vast metadata repository. "Understanding SAP's sophisticated data structures is a difficult and time-consuming task," continued Graham Simpson. "Safyr helps data warehouse designers, reporting teams and data architects analyse their data requirements and take control of their data management projects as they strive to understand exactly where their vital business information is stored."

Safyr has a track record of significantly reducing the amount of time taken on the data discovery phases across SAP projects and has helped large organisations meet critical and challenging application data discovery targets, and ensure timely implementation and integration of SAP systems. By enabling data specialists (rather than in-house SAP technical resources) to locate and manipulate key data tables within SAP, Safyr reduces the demands on scarce SAP specialists, leaving them free to focus on strategic corporate projects. The alternatives would require lengthy and costly development, involve highly specialist expertise and would not deliver the flexibility to respond rapidly to changing demands and objectives.

### Benefits:

- Safyr saves time and effort in understanding, managing and utilising vast metadata repositories, helping data warehouse designers, reporting teams and data architects analyse data requirements and take control of data management projects
- Data specialists can locate key data tables within SAP, reducing the overhead on scarce SAP technical resources
- No need to scan underlying SAP physical tables; users can select which tables to scan
- Silwood's technical support, advice and in-depth knowledge of data management, modelling and metadata tools and solutions helps global enterprise organisation streamline integration and development issues, and ensure that solutions meet client requirements both today and for the future.

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