



Business Intelligence



Data Warehousing & BI Reporting

Large Domestic Religious Organization

COMSYS recently acquired Praeos Technologies Inc., a leading Atlanta-based provider of IT consulting services specializing in the business intelligence, data warehousing and analytics sectors.

Praeos' strong practice in business intelligence and data warehousing have become the platform for these services offerings within the COMSYS Managed Solutions Group. Together, these combined business intelligence practices, now called COMSYS BI Practice make COMSYS a leading provider in these sectors.

CLIENT SITUATION

One of the largest domestic religious organizations needed to select an IT solutions partner to create a data warehouse and business intelligence reporting environment to support its broad network of affiliated organizations. The organization also needed expert-level recommendations for the technology tool set required for the reporting environment. Given the large scale and organizational impact of the project, they were especially interested in engaging a firm with extensive credentials in this area.

The client needed:

- Increased access to regional leadership for critical reports and analysis
- To eliminate complex programming necessary to access data
- Graphical and geo-statistical presentation of data to enhance analysis capabilities

- To promote shared information within the Church leadership community
- To develop collaboration among Church leaders for effective operations, growth, program management and research

COMSYS SOLUTION

A comprehensive evaluation process resulted in the selection of COMSYS' Business Intelligence Practice for overall responsibility for the project implementation, including advice and counsel with respect to the tool set appropriate for the situation. After careful evaluation with the client, COMSYS recommended:

- Oracle databases
- Essbase multi-dimensional databases
- Informatica for ETL
- Business Objects for ad-hoc and reporting needs
- ArcPlan for EIS applications

COMSYS possesses a deep expertise with all of the recommended tools and the depth of experience with data warehousing and business intelligence reporting.

During the course of implementation, COMSYS provided a full-time project manager to work closely with the client's project sponsor to identify risks, issues and develop cost estimates and project schedules. Working collaboratively with the client, the COMSYS project team performed extensive analysis, scope creation,

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data modeling, data warehouse architecture and ETL design, development and testing, as well as needed BI report design, development and unit testing. Following the implementation, the client awarded COMSYS a follow-up contract for the ongoing maintenance of the system. A combined team of client IT staff and COMSYS consultants continue to provide ongoing maintenance.

CLIENT BENEFITS

As a result of implementation, the client's system now provides reliable data warehousing, timely reporting capabilities, data integrity and increased security across its entire network of nationwide organizations. Database creation, modeling, and maintenance are key functions provided by the new system. Data transformation, scrubbing, validation and loading are structured to handle a variety of feeder systems. One of the critical deliverables was the COMSYS-led training for end users and power users during the initial deployment of the data warehousing system.

Following the implementation, the client can now use their data warehouse and BI reporting platform for ongoing tracking, analysis and proposed and future prospective studies. Other benefits include:

- Six departmental EIS and decision support applications in production with several more applications in development
- The reporting solutions are available to leaders worldwide thru the client's WAN, providing cross-departmental reporting and analysis not previously available
- Reliable data warehousing, timely reporting capabilities, data integrity, and overall security
- Data extraction, transformation, scrubbing, validation, and loading (ETL) were structured to handle a variety of feeder systems
- Extensive and scalable platform was established to support future uses of the web portal and data warehouse including forecasting, and executive dashboard monitoring of all aspects of church growth.
- Significant cost savings were realized by the client in key areas such as the manual effort of data research, report development and document reproduction and distribution costs.

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