DENSO

Establishing a global, unified approach to data integration with HULFT

DENSO Corporation is a global manufacturer of automotive parts headquartered in the city of Kariya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan.

In 2020, DENSO achieved consolidated net sales of approximately 5.2 trillion yen ($47M USD), making it the second largest automotive components manufacturer in the world. The organization has 211 consolidated subsidiaries in 35 countries and regions with a global workforce of over 170,000 employees.

Customer Highlights

- Ease of data integration across multiple countries and regions.
- Improved productivity of data integration development and enhanced governance.
- Comprehensive set of HULFT adapters enable even legacy systems to be integrated.
- Data integration platform provides the foundation for a unified global system.

A global platform for a global organization

DENSO began a project to globally reconstruct its mission-critical business systems for a variety of fields. In order to build a system that was compatible with the globalization of business, it set up a global task force made up of team members from different regions. One issue that came to light was the need to establish a data integration platform to share, in a seamless fashion, information that had previously been handled across different offices in separate regions.

Mr. Takeshi Nakayama, project assistant manager at the digital work promotion department of DENSO'S information systems division, explained: "Each region had its own production management systems, and it was difficult to integrate all of them in an environment (such as cloud) because they were all operating in a partially optimized state. We needed to be able to integrate data from each region, while also utilizing our existing production management systems."

A solution to meet existing needs and future challenges

After reviewing all of its requirements, the DENSO team specified a loosely coupled mechanism that could flexibly integrate data without impacting the organization's sending or receiving systems. In order to scale, the team also wanted a mechanism that could achieve data integration with no

requirement to install agents in each region's environment. The goal was to create a scenario where both existing environments and new systems that might arise in the future could be integrated.

HULFT Integrate simplifies data integration

Based on these parameters, the company was drawn to HULFT Integrate. "At first, we considered an enterprise service bus (ESB)-type solution that would integrate applications. From the perspective of loose coupling, we decided that an enterprise application integration (EAI) solution, which uses

a hub-and-spoke architecture to minimize the impact on the systems being integrated, would be ideal. HULFT Integrate provided rich and advanced adapters, as well as exceptional cost performance," said Mr. Nakayama.

The ease with which data integration could be performed was another factor in the selection of HULFT Integrate.

"HULFT Integrate makes it possible to implement a variety of processing without writing code. All we need to do is arrange icons on the screen. All of this made HULFT Integrate the right choice for us," said Mr. Hidenori Fukui, project assistant manager, DENSO.

Flexible local data integration with enhanced governance

Following a successful implementation, the data accumulation and conversion service was deployed around the world. Servers used in Japan and in various regions in North America, Australia, and Asia were installed on an infrasture-as-a-service (IaaS) platform, with data integration achieved via an internal group WAN. HULFT Integrate was used, in combination with HULFT Transfer, for data integration within each region. The timing at which data integration is performed depends on the data's purpose of use. For some data, once a day is sufficient. For other processes, such as those within accounting, data is exchanged as often as once every 30 minutes.

As a result of using HULFT Integrate, data integration is now possible with no need for the user to be aware of the integration-destination systems. By providing development guidelines and integration templates, the company has succeeded in minimizing individual implementation, and has enabled flexible data integration with other regions.

"While improving productivity related to data integration development, we have also been able to work toward enhancing governance," says Mr. Hidenobu Yoshimura, group leader, system management department, DENSO. By involving the people in charge of operations in each region from the early planning stages, the company used a process that involved obtaining local understanding even in those aspects of the operations that would not change. As a result, the utilization of the system was a smooth process in each region.

Future-proof solutions

The DENSO team praised HULFT Integrate for the wide range of adapters it provides (including adapters for legacy applications such as Notes), as well as for its powerful mapping functions that meet the various format-conversion needs of systems in a variety of fields.

Looking to the future, Mr. Yoshimura commented, "As a manufacturer, it is highly likely that we will need to become compatible with IoT and similar technologies going forward. We hope to continue our environment-building efforts with these issues in mind."

HULFT Integrate is sold in the U.S. and Europe. It is available in other countries under the brand DataSpider Servista.

HULFT

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