



APOLLO TYRES LTD.

SAP TEST DATA MIGRATION SYSTEM – SECURING THE BENEFITS OF REAL BUSINESS DATA FOR TESTING WHILE REDUCING OVERALL COSTS.

“The idea that a small sample of your real time data can be discreetly chosen and processed so as to give accurate projections without interfering in your day-to-day business - is magnificent indeed.”

Chandrasekhar V,
Head IT

QUICK FACTS

Summary

- Name: Apollo Tyres Ltd.
- Location: India, South Africa and Zimbabwe
- Industry: Tyres
- Products and services: Heavy commercial and light commercial tyres and passenger vehicle tyres
- Revenue: Rs Mill 47000 plus
- Employees: 10,000+

Website

- www.apollotyres.com
- www.dunlop.co.za

Challenges and Opportunities

- Database of Production System growing too large and making an identical copy for the Test System becoming increasingly difficult.
- Around six hours of downtime for every system copy or refresh.
- Difficulty in aligning time for system refresh between all users from multiple locations working on different projects and schedules.

Objectives

- To produce test environments of manageable size containing real transactional data.

SAP Solutions and Services

- SAP Test Data Migration Server (TDMS) software

Why SAP

- Apollo Tyres' history of success with SAP software
- Reliability, stability and scalability of SAP software
- SAP TDMS satisfied majority of business requirements

Implementation Highlights

- SAP TDMS implementation in a record period of 10 days
- Excellent support from IT and Core Functional Team

Benefits

- Drastic reduction in the size of the test system.
- Unlike the older test system that grew in size along with the Production system, the new Test system is constant in size.
- No system downtime and hence no interruption in work
- Reduction in costs
- Better representation of the Productive System with scope for flexibility in tests.
- Multiple Test Systems for multiple projects with minimum efforts with minimum storage space

Existing Environment

- SAP software for enterprise resource planning

Third Party Integration for TDMS

- Database – Oracle
- Operating system – AIX



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SAP test data migration system – securing the benefits of real business data for testing while reducing overall costs.

All growing companies face the challenges of creating, refreshing and maintaining non-productive systems for testing purposes.

To be useful, the testing system must closely resemble the production system and be populated with accurate consistent data. The conventional method is to simply create a complete copy of the productive system, including the entire data repository and all administrative settings whether or not this data is required for testing purposes. Duplicating the productive environment, this method is both costly and time consuming. Apollo Tyres, facing a similar problem, tackled it using the SAP Test Data Migration Server.

Apollo Tyres chooses to implement SAP TDMS

Apollo Tyres, India's largest and the first multinational tyre corporation, is also the 16th largest in the world. For more than three decades the company has been pioneering innovations in heavy commercial and light commercial tyres and passenger vehicle tyres. Having acquired Dunlop Tyres International in 2006 in South Africa, it now exports its products to over 60 countries globally. With a CAGR of 20% in the last four years, Apollo Tyres has become the fastest growing Indian Tyre brand.

Following the conventional practice of replicating the Productive System for Testing purposes had become too cumbersome to manage. Keeping pace with the exponential growth curve of the organization, the Productive System

had symmetrically increased in size to 2 Terabytes (TB). The Testing System, as was the practice, was a complete copy of the Productive system, taking up another 2 TB. Such a mammoth Test System threatened to slow down preparation of test system for any new projects.

Taking up enormous amount of space of 2 TB, the Test System was probably adding more to the infrastructure costs than was helping to reduce overall expenses. Developers could not refresh the environment simply by copying the relevant data from the live system because all ongoing live projects would be affected. Chandrasekhar Velagapudi, Head IT, explains, "The downtime could be decided only with the agreement from all users from all locations working on 24/7 basis. Stretching the downtime of SAP to 6 hours for every system refresh or copy means stopping the business for 6 hours. This indeed affects the productivity".

Additionally, the Test System was not as flexible as required. Making a complete copy of a single productive system that serves multiple clients limits individual client control in the development environment and made coordination between multiple clients difficult. Apollo Tyres clearly needed an alternative solution – stable, cost worthy and effective – and needed it fast.

SAP TDMS deployed in record implementation period of just ten days

Generally projects such as these take at least 15 to 20 days. However, in case of Apollo Tyres the TDMS deployment made a record by taking just 10 days – an achievement made possible by the total commitment of top management, superb skill of the IT Team and the synchronization between SAP and the IT team.

Chandrasekhar says, "The IT Team was extremely responsive. Be it understanding the inherent requirements of the test system, the cost factor or the possible loopholes, they were very perceptive regarding all. Actually, since the entire functional core team was involved, a good closure was ensured for the project".

The Go Live took place on 14th March, 2008, and benefits have immediately become apparent.

Apollo Tyres registers drastic reduction in test storage and ups operational efficiency

Post the TDMS deployment, the Test System shrunk from the earlier mammoth size of 2 TB to 390 GB – consisting of data from the past six months. After some deliberation the company decided to increase the time span to one year and this resulted in the Test Data size being finalized at 490 GB – just one fourth



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Velagapudi, Head IT

the size of the older system. Now the organization has four such Test Storages, capable of running different tests simultaneously.

The advantage with SAP TDMS is that unlike the conventional Test Storage that replicates the Productive System and thus keeps increasing in size, the new Test Storage are of unchanging capacity. Stable at 490 GB each, the four Test Storages do not add to costs in any way.

“Now we have a parallel system that works in its own without interfering with the main Productive System. We don't have to stop work in order to do a system refresh. Even the headache of coordinating the downtime has been completely done away with”, explains Chandrasekhar.

From improving the quality of test results by feeding relevant data into the Test System, to increasing development efficiency by providing developers with more flexible testing system, the benefits of deploying SAP TDMS have been many.

“The SAP deployment has enabled us to take a time slice of the extensive data – consisting of the most relevant and representative portions – and reach better conclusions. And all this is achievable while saving considerable disk space and with smooth coordination”, adds Chandrasekhar.

The Way Ahead...

“We are very happy and satisfied with the SAP TDMS implementation”, says Chandrasekhar. “The success of this deployment has simply strengthened the relationship of Apollo Tyres with SAP. We are glad that we have a partner with a similar long term vision and deep insight into our business requirements – someone as enthusiastic about our progress as we are”.

The future holds many possibilities as Chandrasekhar elaborates, “There is much to explore as far as SAP products are concerned and we believe that we still have some way to go before we can say that we have reached our peak operational efficiency in terms of TDMS. We need to look into Shell creation using TDMS. Of course, there are many other business applications that need to be implemented to achieve the business operational efficiency and are looking forward to implementing BI, CRM and SRM soon”.

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