

SAP Customer Success Story



Coop Schweiz is based in Basel and is the second-largest retailer in Switzerland. In around 1,700 stores its workforce of around 45,000 and range of 250,000 stock items produce an annual turnover of 11.5 billion Swiss francs (CHF). This represents 83.5 million data records every month. As part of the **Coop** Retail System (CRS) project, its project partners SAP® AG, Sun Microsystems and Oracle subjected the SAP BW to a month-long stress test for **Coop** Schweiz. The results were convincing. SAP BW, the core of multi-channel retailing, easily passed the stress test and will be employed by **Coop** Schweiz as its data analysis tool.

COOP SCHWEIZ DECIDES FOR SAP'S DATA WAREHOUSE SOLUTION

INITIAL SITUATION

Coop Schweiz has used SAP software solutions for its retail business since the beginning of the eighties. Coop subsidiaries in Switzerland have also decided to implement SAP solutions. SAP standard software for accounting, cost accounting, material management and sales are just some of the modules employed by the group. In addition Coop Schweiz has implemented in-house developed merchandise management systems. The result is obvious – the heterogeneous IT landscape was no longer capable of processing the rising number of sales data in an efficient and userfriendly manner.



Coop Schweiz is now looking to open up new sales channels by means of “multi-channel retailing”. The “Rail shop”, for example, shall supplement traditional sales channels and other innovative sales methods are currently being envisaged. This requires software implemented in the future that it is able to support, at short notice, new sales channels. These sales channels will need to be supported by a comprehensive database, which will in turn allow cross-channel analysis for example. The hardware must ensure good performance and reliability. In the context of the CRS (Coop Retail System) initiative, Coop Schweiz took the decision of implementing the SAP Business Information Warehouse on a Sun Hardware platform after undergoing a successful stress test.

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Markus Lienhard, CRS Project Manager at Coop Schweiz

STRESS TEST

Just two weeks after the kick off of the SAP BW stress test, around 83.5 million data records (the average sales data for one month from 14 cooperative cubes at Coop Schweiz) passed through the SAP BW. These data records were then generated for 15 months to allow the annual volume of sales data – 1.4 billion – to be included in the test. The venue for the test was the Sun Benchmark Center in Geneva, where the project partners Sun Microsystems and Oracle, under the overall project management of SAP, provided the appropriate infrastructure and resources for the project organization and installation services. A Sun Enterprise 10000 server, known as Starfire, with 64 CPU’s and 64 GB memory, as well as storage for around 2.3 TB with a Solaris operating system and Oracle 64-bit database Version 8.1.5 were used for the test. After SAP had installed the SAP BW Version 2.0A in the SAP R/3® system Version 4.6A and Coop had supplied the required data, the following criteria were tested – performance of data upload, performance the index structure, performance of aggregate structure and finally performance of queries based on the performance measurements conducted during the test period.

WHY A STRESS TEST

The SAP Business Information Warehouse is the core of multi-channel retailing. The analysis of extremely large volumes of daily aggregated sales data will help Coop Schweiz to better utilize new sales channels. The requirements on the SAP BW are correspondingly high in terms of reliability, capacity and flexibility. This performance was what the TeamSAP made up of employees of Sun Microsystems, SAP and Oracle wanted to prove. After all, an SAP Business Information Warehouse of this size and in this constellation with Sun hardware and an Oracle database was a new concept at the time in the retail environment.

EXPECTATIONS

Following the idea of a TeamSAP, all members of the team had specific objectives for the SAP BW stress test. From a strategic point of view Coop Schweiz wanted to prove that the SAP Data Warehouse solution was the right information tool for Coop and specifically for multi-channel retailing. The improvement of analysis and its optimal use is regarded by Coop Schweiz as the basis for realization of multi-channel retailing. SAP and Sun Microsystems also wanted confirmation that the SAP Business Information Warehouse on a Sun platform would meet the requirements of Coop and therefore also of other large retailers. The stress test was also designed to produce reliable information on the sizing of a start configuration.

RESULTS

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With this statement, the CRS Project Manager at Coop Schweiz underlined the significance of the SAP BW for the new sales market strategy at Coop Schweiz. The stress test produced a clear result – the SAP Business Warehouse is capable of processing the large volumes of data required by Coop Schweiz to everybody’s complete satisfaction, it can be tested within a short period of time using a specific stress test and serves improved multi-channel retailing due to analysis based on sales data. The SAP Business Information Warehouse with a Sun hardware infrastructure will be used by Coop Schweiz as its data analysis tool. By taking this decision, Coop Schweiz is now also open to future developments. For example, it will be able to use the additional functions of the SAP BW in the field of Category Management. The international character of the SAP Business Information Warehouse also means that Coop Schweiz can use it for its international business relationships.

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At A Glance

SAP solution components	- SAP Business Information Warehouse Release 2.0A
Hardware platform	- Sun Enterprise™ 1000 64 CPU's 2.3 TB Storage
Operating system	- Solaris
Database	- Oracle