



Rolta SmartMigrate™

Speeds BI Platform Consolidation

ROLTA SMARTMIGRATE™ – BI PLATFORM CONSOLIDATION

On the journey to increase an organization's BI maturity, a comprehensive approach must be taken. In large organizations, it is common to find multiple end user and enterprise reporting tools being employed across business units and global regions. Multiple reporting tools in disparate systems often occur because of mergers and acquisitions, changing business needs, higher license costs for legacy platforms, or technically obsolete products that were not modernized.

Therefore the road to maximizing an organization's BI program should begin with a data discovery process to ensure all stakeholders understand and agree upon the data, its underlying information landscape and the information model. Most frequently organizations will discover that standardizing and consolidating information platforms is necessary to truly utilize enterprise-wide data that can uncover actionable insights to drive performance.

Once the technology layer for the integrated consolidated data and its information delivery mechanism is planned, the step of delivering this data to business users for analysis is taken up. The standardization of BI platforms is a critical step for CIOs to take in order to gain efficiency of the entire system and to be able to roll out analytics to business users faster, not only in terms of development schedules but also

end user training time and adoption. A fragmented toolset hampers the ability to make data and information available to large user groups, leading to reduced user adoption and consequently delayed and diminished ROI.

Rolta has seen many organizations react to the dilemma of fragmentation by slowing down on efforts to optimize BI programs – even those that have the potential to dramatically impact the achievement of key business goals. Even when a decision to standardize the reporting or data platform is made, some big questions faced by IT managers remain, such as:

1. How do I migrate existing reports to a new platform?
2. How many months or years will it take to migrate even a rationalized subset of these reports?
3. Will I need a huge army of developers to migrate my 10,000 reports?
4. How will I find and manage developers knowledgeable about the three reporting tools we currently use, as well as the reporting tool we want to migrate to?
5. Will there be sufficient time to migrate and test these reports before business users could start using them?

Rolta's Comprehensive BI Solution Approach

Rolta SmartMigrate™ is a comprehensive offering of software and services that accelerates reporting platform consolidation, with minimal business disruption and requiring little to no involvement from your business users. Some features of this innovative solution include:

- Matured methodology and accelerators built using Rolta's IP for faster and reliable consolidation/migration onto the required reporting platform
- Supports leading reporting platforms as source and target, including SAP® BusinessObjects™, Microstrategy, Cognos, Microsoft and Oracle OBIEE
- Retains the project/module structure from the source to the target platform
- Able to migrate individual and batches of reports
- Architected to facilitate optimal adoption of source features in the target platform with little or no user interface loss

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The Architecture

Rolta SmartMigrate Meta Model Source Adaptors

The core of Rolta SmartMigrate™ architecture is the Meta Model, which stores the metadata extracted from the source reporting tool. It is based on CWM format and facilitates XML-based Metadata Interchange (XMI). The architecture supports single and batch mode migrations.

Parameter (configuration file) source adaptors connect to the source BI platform and extract metadata related to the semantic layer, reports, filters, prompts, dashboards etc., to create the Meta Model. Key features of the source adaptors include:

- Logging – Logs are created both for Rolta SmartMigrate users and developers for troubleshooting purposes
- Connection Pooling – A pool of connections is used when required to reduce the impact on source systems
- Multi-threading – All threads execute in parallel for faster extraction of a high volumes of reports
- Extract subset/all reports – Reports can be extracted based on name, folder or all, facilitating selected migration of reports

Rolta SmartMigrate Target Adaptors

These connect to the target BI platform and create the target semantic layer, reports, prompts, filters, dashboards etc. Key features of target adaptors include:

- Function Mapping – Maps the source function to target function for easy migration
- Class Mapping – Stores the relation between source folder/groups and target folder/groups
- Semantic Layer Objects – Programmatically creates Joins, Contexts, Conditions, Measures, Hierarchies, Dimensions etc.

The Migration Process

Migration of reports from source to target occurs in a series of steps. An initial discovery process is completed to analyze the source inventory and its nuances, like versions, number of reports, dashboards and complexity of these objects. This information is used to plan the entire migration process.

- Depending on the version and specific source tool, the metadata is extracted to a Meta Model by the Rolta SmartMigrate Source Adaptor. Next, a subset of source reports that need to be migrated (for testing/UAT) are analyzed. The Rolta SmartMigrate tool is then tuned to handle special functions used in the source and also create the appropriate test criteria for post-migration testing.
- Extraction of source reports' metadata, such as reports created using different modules, begins and the reports' Meta Model are created.
- The Rolta SmartMigrate Target Adaptor then takes over, creating the target reports and dashboards from the Meta Model. Due to differences between source and target platforms, some reports will need manual intervention. A list of manual actions required is also generated by the tool, which is then applied to the migrated reports and dashboards.
- A highly automated test plan is then executed to verify the content of source and target reports.

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Key Business Benefits

Organizations using Rolta SmartMigrate reap many benefits. The migration automation achieved through this tool, supplemented by a mature methodology for execution and validation, creates a very fast and efficient process while ensuring the quality of the migrated reports.

- Stakeholders more fully realize the benefits of a comprehensive and integrated BI reporting environment, driving up usage and ROI
- Automation dramatically speeds the process. Typically automation manages 70% to 80% of the process for simple reports, between 40% to 70% for those of medium complexity, and about 20% to 40% for complex reports (maps, complex charts and graphs, security, OLAP cubes)
- Rolta SmartMigrate reduces the cost of migration
- It lessens the amount of time that support and development staff must dedicate to the migration process, freeing them to be involved in other strategic, mission-critical initiatives

A Representative Use Case

Customer Context:

The customer is a global, high-tech manufacturing company previously using more than three BI tools. The objective was to migrate more than 3,000 Microstrategy reports to SAP® BusinessObjects™ within nine months and roll them out to multiple regional business units around the globe.

Rolta Solution:

Rolta SmartMigrate solution accelerator, along with our proven migration methodology, was used to move reports in record time. A detailed migration roadmap was created while working with users to plan, process and perform the migration in optimal batches. This collaborative approach achieved a high throughput of an average of 300 reports per month.

Customer Benefits:

- The accelerated migration and reduced cost compared to other methods enabled IT to progress rapidly on the technology consolidation program.
- A significant reduction in maintenance costs due to consolidation of BI platforms was achieved.
- The rapid speed of migration alleviated the concern over expiring support of source platforms.
- The organization quickly recognized the value of consolidating other BI tools using Rolta SmartMigrate

To learn more about Rolta SmartMigrate, visit www.Rolta.com or email us at SmartMigrate@rolta.com.

About Rolta

Rolta is a leading provider of innovative IT solutions for many vertical segments. Enterprise-level solutions are built around Rolta's intellectual property and domain expertise to offer deep insights and understanding of industry drivers and supporting business processes that help organizations achieve their business goals.