



Overview

Challenge

Undertake a massive transformation project involving the implementation of a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, while at the same time integrating recently acquired businesses and addressing associated information sprawl.

Solution

Deploy IBM® Rational System Architect to centralise silos of information and enhance knowledge management for better decision making.

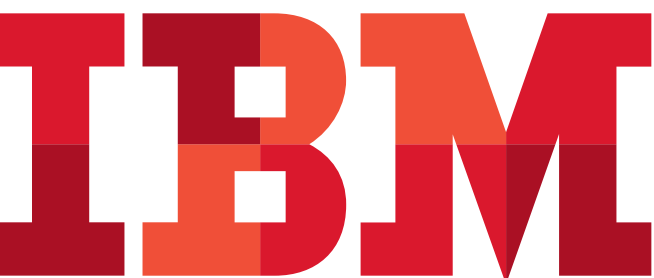
Key benefits

- Consolidates and stores information in a central knowledge repository.
 - Provides simple and quick access to knowledge for key stakeholders.
 - Enforces a discipline of codifying knowledge and organisational Intellectual Property (IP).
 - Assists with rapid impact assessment of change.
-

Rational helps architect a new direction for Simplot

IBM Rational software helps food and agribusiness corporation Simplot drive consistency and innovation through a period of significant change.

Simplot Australia was founded in 1995 when the J R Simplot Company, a privately held Idaho-based corporation, acquired some of Australia's leading food brands including Edgell, Chiko, Birds Eye, Harvest and Leggo's. Ongoing business acquisition has seen the Australian subsidiary grow substantially in recent years. Simplot Australia currently employs around 3000 people across a number of sites throughout Australia, including six manufacturing facilities, and sales offices in each state as well as New Zealand.



“System Architect highlighted the scope of what we had to do ... Until it was communicated in a consistent way, that was difficult to comprehend.”

– Architecture and Planning Manager
Ciaran Loughlin, Simplot

Challenge

In 2010, Simplot undertook an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) transformation project. To add to this already complex undertaking, new business acquisitions meant that Simplot needed to integrate divergent processes and systems into the organisation. Simplot recognised the need for a tool that would enhance knowledge management, amalgamate silos of information and assist in defining scope for effective communication between senior decision makers.

Solution

Having confirmed Gartner’s recommendations and completed an internal evaluation, Simplot implemented IBM Rational System Architect.

“System Architect highlighted the scope of what we had to do,” Architecture and Planning Manager Ciaran Loughlin explains. “Until it was communicated in a consistent way, that was difficult to comprehend. So we used System Architect to document our various activities and the state in which each project left us.”

In a project of this type, Rational System Architect can help:

- Harvest and consolidate information, build reports based on Cognos and perform analysis for faster knowledge access for decision-makers.
- Reduce risk across ERP deployments and improve collaboration by standardising the language the teams use (enterprise components, data and functions) and demonstrating relevant dependencies across the organisation.
- Execute business transformation to eliminate organisational waste, resulting in increased productivity and cost reduction.
- Evaluate architectures across multiple systems, perform capability analysis planning and help maximise funding.

“We were able to report to senior management a full breakdown of the required work and the associated costs. Prior to this, you could have asked three different people the same question and got three different answers.”

– Architecture and Planning Manager
Ciaran Loughlin, Simplot

Benefits

The key benefits of Rational System Architect for the Simplot team are deeper knowledge and enhanced consistency across its requirements. Before using the tool, it would have taken weeks to assess the work required at a particular point in time in a project. Simplot is now able to capture the information quickly and accurately.

As Ciaran explains: “We were able to report to senior management a full breakdown of the required work and the associated costs. Prior to this, you could have asked three different people the same question and got three different answers.”

Simplot has also been innovative in its use of IBM Rational System Architect. Through information sequencing, the team is able to take a project dimension and map all configuration items and project enhancements to gain a snapshot of a project’s current state. As new projects come along, they can change configuration items, introduce new ones and decommission others in order to show project progression over time. This gives a historical view of the capabilities and impact of change across all projects which not only helps make projects more predictable, it allows Simplot to better prepare for possible risks.

“There’s no prescribed way of using Rational System Architect,” says Ciaran. “It’s an ongoing process for us finding new ways to get more out of the tool... we’re still discovering what’s the most valuable information to capture, and how we can use that information to add value to the business.”

Having invested in Rational System Architect at the beginning of its transformation, Simplot has been able to drive greater ease and efficiency through its ERP implementation. Ciaran sees the decision to invest in System Architect as one that will continue to benefit the business well into the future. “I think we’ve got it to a point now where we’re getting a lot of value out of it, but we can get more. It’s only going to increase in value as we go forward.”



For more information

Please contact your local IBM sales representative or visit:
<http://www-01.ibm.com/software/awdtools/systemarchitect/>

© Copyright IBM Corporation 2012

IBM Australia Ltd
Level 13
IBM Centre
601 Pacific Highway
St Leonards NSW 2065

Produced in Australia
June 2012 All rights reserved

IBM, the IBM logos, ibm.com, Rational, Smarter Planet, Let's build a smarter planet and the planet icon are trademarks of IBM Corp registered in many jurisdictions worldwide. Other company, product and services marks may be trademarks or services marks of others. A current list of IBM trademarks is available on the Web at "Copyright and trademark information" at www.ibm.com/legal/copytrade.shtml

References in this publication to IBM products or services do not imply that IBM intends to make them available in all countries in which IBM operates.

The information provided in this documentation is provided for informational purposes only. While efforts were made to verify the completeness and accuracy of the information contained in this documentation, it is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, express or implied. In addition, this information is based on IBM's current plans and strategy, which are subject to change by IBM without notice. IBM shall not be responsible for any damages arising out of the use of, or otherwise related to, this documentation or any other documentation. Nothing contained in this documentation is intended to, nor shall have the effect of, creating any warranties or representations from IBM (or its suppliers or licensors), or altering the terms and conditions of the applicable license agreement governing the use of IBM software.

IBM customers are responsible for ensuring their own compliance with legal requirements. It is the customer's sole responsibility to obtain advice of competent legal counsel as to the identification and interpretation of any relevant laws and regulatory requirements that may affect the customer's business and any actions the customer may need to take to comply with laws.

