

KEY FEATURES: Data Warehouse, Cubes, Business Intelligence, Legacy Systems

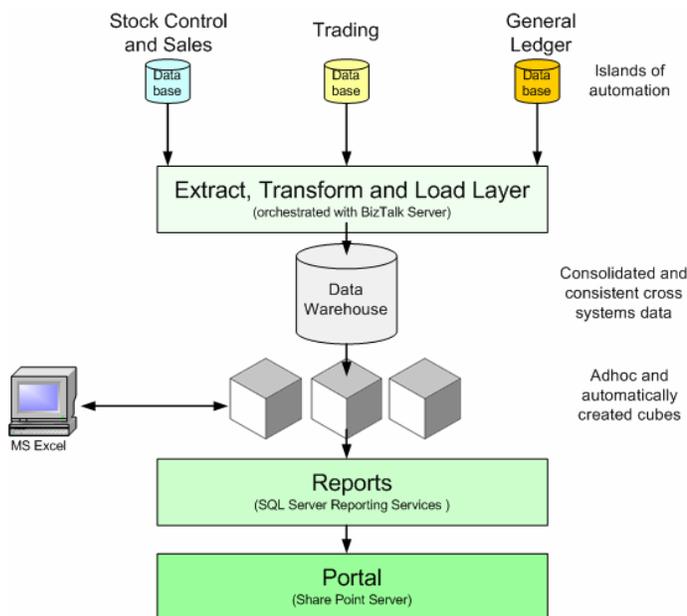
In early 2009, a major player in the agriculture sector approached Mintec with a need to establish a consolidated base of business intelligence from their isolated systems databases. The basic operation of the company was the trading of commodities: buying from local producers, consolidating into lots and selling internationally.

The problem: Having operated for many years their systems had grown in a piecemeal fashion. While the data was there to be reported it was stored in “islands of automation”. The systems held the necessary data but operated on different timing cycles and were not suitably structured for garnering business intelligence. This made management tracking and informed decision making based on consistent information very difficult.

The resolution: The main systems of interest were the

- Stock Control and Sales - A system standard in the industry for stock control, payments & invoicing
- The Trading System - The system used to determine buying limits & quotes
- Microsoft Dynamics Great Plains - The company’s general ledger & accounts payable & receivable systems

Following an examination of the systems and the technical environment operating within the company, Mintec proposed to achieve a high level of enterprise application integration through the implementation of a Data Warehouse built around Microsoft components: SQL Server, BizTalk, MS Excel, Reporting Services and SharePoint. Mintec also developed a project plan that established a phased development with the first phase establishing the necessary infrastructure and base data capture and some initial reports.



Following phases were defined for the project

- Phase 1 : Proof of Concept / ETL
- Phase 2 : Targetted Reports for highest priority and value reports
- Phase 3 : Extend the Business Intelligence Analysis facilities

The outcome:

- o The Proof of Concept has been completed and Mintec is currently working on Phase 2 of the project.