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nationalgrid

National Grid Gas

Finding a rapid solution to the legacy data challenge

CUSTOMER CHALLENGE
- Maintain fast access to twenty years of pipeline work history data
- Avoid the high costs and lengthy timescales involved in migrating large volumes of old data to new systems
- Comply with quality standards monitored by industry regulator Ofgem

SOLUTION
- Application decommissioning

KEY BENEFITS
- Significant cost savings compared with other alternatives considered
- Rapid implementation, minimizing the burden on the IT department
- Fast access to legacy work history records to support staff efficiency
- Full compliance with industry regulations for data retention

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>
> **Rob Yewer**
> **IS Co-ordinator,**
> **National Grid Gas**

National Grid Gas (formerly Transco) implemented Macro 4's application decommissioning solution to maintain ongoing access to twenty years of pipeline work history data. The project involved integrating legacy information from four IBM mainframes and eight ICL mainframes and was part of a strategic program to unify computer systems operated by the twelve pre-privatization British Gas regions.

It was essential to retain quick, easy access to the legacy work history records, which included pipeline specifications and details of previous implementations. The data needed to be viewed when planning future maintenance work. It was also required for compliance reasons because National Grid Gas is assessed by the industry regulator, Ofgem, on the quality of its information.

The solution, based on Macro 4's Columbus software, runs on a Windows server at the National Grid Gas Hinckley data center. Employees throughout the UK are able to access the information on-screen from their PCs.

"The information was originally stored in very different formats on twelve separately run mainframes. We wanted to avoid the resource and technical burdens of complex data migration and were looking for the fastest, most cost-effective way of pooling the data and keeping it live and accessible. We looked at various alternatives, but this solution was the most cost effective and gives us virtually instant on-screen access," said Rob Yewer, an IS Co-ordinator at National Grid Gas.

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About Macro 4

Macro 4, a division of UNICOM Global, develops software solutions that accelerate business transformation. Macro 4's cross-platform enterprise information management solutions make it easy for companies to go digital, personalize customer communications and unlock the value of their corporate content. Macro 4 solutions for application lifecycle management, session management and performance optimization are used by many of the world's largest enterprises to modernize their mainframe applications and development processes. UNICOM Global operates across all geographic regions and offers deep in-house resources and flexible IT solutions to customers worldwide.

For more information on Macro 4 products and services visit www.macro4.com.