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Making the Data Lake
of a Securities Company
**Reliable and
Scalable**

Case study

Overview

Our client is a South African company that handles the settlement of various securities such as equities and bonds, as well as a range of derivatives including warrants, retail notes, and tracker funds. It was important to have a single, trusted source of data for our client's data-driven sciences initiative. Unfortunately, our client was unable to make the most of its data lake.

With our reengineering data strategy, we reduced storage costs by 80%, while giving our client a usable and scalable data architecture.

Challenges and goals

As data-driven decision making was an integral part of its business, our client had invested in an on-premises data lake as a single, reliable source. Despite a significant investment, our client was unable to get the agility and scalability it desired.

The client faced several challenges due to the nature of the data lake's infrastructure. This included the inability to scale, high infrastructure and maintenance costs, and lack of cloud-based computing. Due to its monolithic architecture, the data lake was also unable to handle the client's increasing data storage and analytics needs. Because of the absence of cloud-based services, the data lake was not being utilized fully by its business users. It was inaccessible by many, lacked real-time services, and regarded as an unreliable source. This resulted in significant revenue leakages as well.

Solution

As our client's technology partner, we started with a current state assessment to understand the roadblocks mentioned above. Once all the pain points were identified, we collaborated with the client and laid out a long-term analytics roadmap for them to become a data-driven organization.

To implement this data roadmap, we decided to migrate the data lake to MS Azure. To ensure that the long-term solution would cope with the organization's exponential data growth, Zensar designed the Azure Analytics architecture in which the data warehouse, data pipelines, ETL jobs, and 60+ reports and dashboards were created.

To ensure that the cloud infrastructure was utilized fully, Zensar implemented the relevant process flows and improvements to the end-user experience so that the user would only be presented with relevant data.

Impact and key highlights

With our end-to-end consultation, detailed roadmap and step-by-step guidance, we delivered the following impact to the client:

- Saved ~$100k by eliminating fee leakage within 2 months of implementation
- Reduced TCO by ~50%
- Improved future scalability
- Eliminated redundant data and reduced storage cost by 80%
- Reduced time to load by 70%
- Enabled faster sharing of insights with internal and external stakeholders

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