



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities RDB to Oracle Conversion Meeting

MEETING NOTES

August 5, 2008

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Conference Room 1802, UBS Building, St. Paul

NEXT MEETING: Date: September 2, 2008
Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Location: UBS 1802

ATTENDEES: Ken Ries, Gerry Rushenberg, Tim Meath, Joanne Chabot, Michael Janke, Jim Dillemoth, Glen Guida, Ken Brumbaugh, Dave Overby

ITV: Les Bakke, Ted Johnson, Kathy, Gene, Shawn Elword, Amy Simon, Nancy, Steve Richards, Matt

Data type conversion and implementation

- Planning on putting into production first round of data type changes this weekend
- 2nd group of data types will be implemented and put into production after “code freeze”
 - VMS Date types
 - Example-- Time stamps of when record was created
 - May be more challenging than first round
- Final group will be implemented simultaneously to rollover to Oracle
- Load test data base-
 - Only Mankato state and North Hennepin had trouble getting connected.
 - Tim Meath said that the initial start-up issues were only with getting connected.
 - Was first attempt at putting out production-like test environment
 - No issues with phase one data type have been reported. Any changes have been benign thus far.
- Trouble from campuses with VAR charge getting changed in test environment?
 - Gene from Mankato some trouble with connection, but had no trouble of note. Still shows up as character 8
- Not many campuses have attempted to connect as of yet. The three institutions that have used test environment haven’t experienced any difficulties beyond initial connection.
- Time stamp changes coming up in September could be more troublesome. Please call or email with any issues.
- Feedback is required on whether or not campuses are having issues. Please test in case there are issues.

Prospect Purge

- Individuals that had indicated that they were going to come to institutions and never showed up have not been purged from system

- Wish to purge those who have not had any type of connection to us within last five years
- Should be about a 20% decrease in amount of data stored
 - Entire list of associated entities—fairly significant move
- Objectives:
 - Will lower size of data base to manage
 - Reduces number of duplicates
 - Will allow for more efficient core merge
- Model is that we will move them over to replicated environment
 - Aware of 31 tables that are part of current prospect archive. We will provide the tables in a new schema.
 - View will have a different naming strategy. Views pointing to them with same view names but possibly add an underbar with “prospect” following.
 - Will provide access for those who may need to access data.
 - Communication will be sent out soon. There is already an archive schema with old housing data, community college payroll data, etc. Putting prospects into archive schema is a step to get old data out of system.
- May be ready to purge data as soon as next week, but may not choose to start running during fall readiness. Process has been tested and is ready, but working on timing.
 - Must be completed before core merges (across all institutions). This project has a dependency to core merge.
 - How long will process take?
 - Estimate for a mid-sized state university is 1.5 hours.
 - Will not put fall-readiness at risk. Perhaps run it overnight.

Core merge

- Implementing and testing in a way that looks like production and have already run into challenges with streams process. Struggles with very active transactional processes.
- Working on this currently; not waiting on prospect purge to get done
- Options:
 - What if we merged nothing? Application would work fine, but Institutions would not be connected.
 - What if we just took active students?
 - There are 7.5 million records total, with about 1 million active students.
 - HR individuals must be merged across the board.
 - Could choose to do active students only on round one, and then run multiple cycles. Will become more “merged” with each run.
- Not everyone can be merged. If we merged one student a second, it would take about 81 days to merge all students.
 - Need to come up with a strategy to reduce number of records to be merged.
 - Could merge only “active” students and only include former students on a case-by-case basis. Don’t have numbers on how many students would be eliminated.
- Students are most affected by merge.
 - Need to build an automation to allow students to connect records on their own
 - This is something we would like to consider and spend cycles on.
- In load-test, Alexandria and Anoka Ramsey have been merged. Students in those two schools have traffic in up to fifteen other institutions as well. Mankato and south-Central are on list to be one of next schools to be merged in test-environment.

- Gene needs to look at data once Mankato has been included
- Prelim testing of looking at data has begun
- Core merge will never be 100%. Last updated address may have to be “winner”.

Data card

- Work effort involved is not huge—JIT
- Need to create a couple of data services
 - No one working on it currently, but could still be put in place relatively quickly
- It doesn't make sense to do it in RDB; timing of Oracle implementation is when these services will be made available

Fall Readiness

- Freeze dates are August 10th- Sept 14th.
- RaNae's support team has been doing communications and plan to be on campus during start-up. Website is available.
- Project team has been putting out information. This is not a part of the database migration project, but has implications on it.

Uniface 8

- Provided us with a patch last Friday.
- David Willford is implementing this week and doing some initial testing in our environment.
 - Will not be full model of testing. Just looking for any obvious bugs.
- August 8th—hopefully will have tested and know that it actually works.
- Best case dates:
 - Next week is getting into freeze time. Significant testing needed to verify that it won't “croak” once it gets to a certain level. Will not attempt to implement during freeze date.
 - September 12th would be the earliest we would like to implement.
 - Will ask for institutions to volunteer to be candidates for implementation.
 - Will implement institution by institution. Two-year schools may be better candidates.
 - Institutions where the most problems occurred last time were where users had multiple logins.
 - Perhaps total number of logins was actual problem. Orphan processes may have also contributed to/caused problems.
 - Does the patch make VMS Uniface 8 run VMS the way it does on UNIX? We should have enough time to test this.
- Best case is that it will be implemented to first group at end of fall start-up, Sept 12th-14th. Next group around Sept. 19th and third group around Sept. 26th. This does not allow time to start leveraging, in RDB, read-only Uniface connections to Oracle.
 - Don't yet understand what it will mean to locking and transactional things in Oracle.
 - This all puts October date at high risk
- Confidence builder—assure people that we can react quicker to problems than the last time we went down this path. If we see problems starting, we won't let it get to the

- Need to make the campuses aware that there will be pains again. They may not like it right now, but this is a must and things will get better.
 - Give credit to northern regional schools for not overreacting to problems in the past.
 - Staff may be inconvenienced, but will try out best to avoid inconveniencing students.
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Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm. Meeting notes submitted by Erin Meyer. Erin.Meyer@csu.mnscu.edu.