

Case Study: Oracle Database Upgrade

About the Company:

MNET is a television channel which is part of the popular South African satellite television network, DStv. This channel broadcasts television series 24 hours a day (with many daily repeats) to viewers in Africa. Most of the programs broadcast are unique to *MNET Series* but some are re-broadcasts of episodes previously shown on M-Net which is DStv's flagship channel. This project was carried out for Mnet and Supersport, which currently use Mindpack for Program Budgeting, Contracts & Licensing, Planning and Scheduling, Media management and financials for their services and television channels across South Africa and rest of Africa.

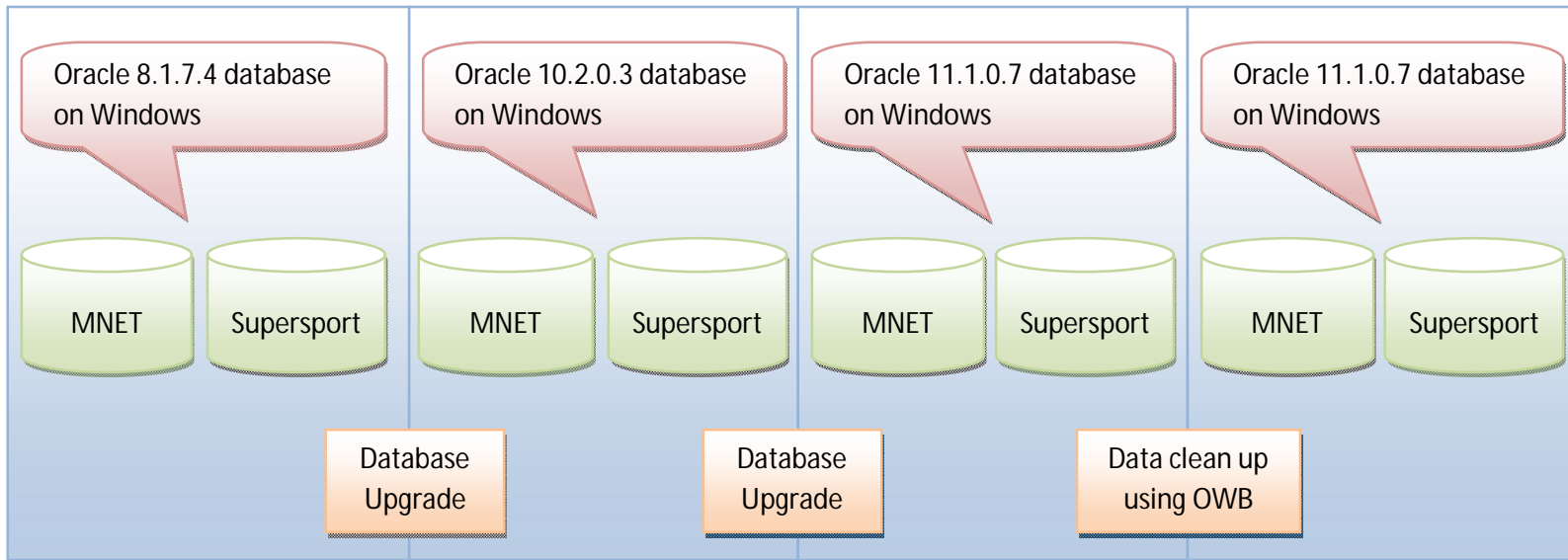
Business Challenges

- The organization was running their Application with Oracle 8.1.7.4 Database on Windows.
- The existing system was in Oracle forms and reports and was reengineered to .Net with WCF framework.
- Build a database architecture that can scale and adapt with changes as users grow
- Maximize performance and stability of new, mission-critical, customer-facing business management system used around-the-clock by employees to handle Television Channel Services
- Leverage advances in Oracle technology to cut long-term cost of ownership through vendor rationalization, and increase employee productivity through process automation

Nihilent's Role:

- Nihilent was responsible for end to end execution of oracle database up-gradation from 8i to 11gR1 project in three phases of
 - 1. 8.1.7.4 to 10.2.0.3 database upgrade
 - 2. 10.2.0.3 to 11.1.0.7 database upgrade
 - 3. Data clean up (migration) using OWB was an integral part this exercise
- Nihilent had migrated both Mnet and Supersport data into different environments like Development, QA, PreUAT, UAT and Production
- Nihilent provided different migration statistics and trend analysis of migrations carried in various environments
- Client preferred to use Oracle 11gR1 on windows 2008 platform for the target (To-be) system
- Nihilent had done extensive study on different tools for data migration of removal of redundant and Junk Data in target database and finally preferred to use Oracle warehouse builder (OWB) to clean up redundant data.

The following figure outlines MNET Synergy database upgrade process.



Business Benefits

- Gained a scalable and stable environment, enabling the media organization to support rapid data growth
- Achieved performance improvements averaging 300% for applications running on the upgraded architecture
- Benefited from Oracle Tuning pack to increase performance of media management by 20% without increasing IT support staff
- Enabled faster data transfer between the production and testing environments
- Simplified backups by holding all data in a single repository
- Handled transaction spikes with optimal database performance during the busy business hours without system slow down cut