Solidatus

Using Solidatus to build a centralized data governance solution

The challenge

NOW: Pensions is a pension scheme provider and one of 38 master trusts approved and continually supervised by The Pensions Regulator (TPR).

Part of NOW: Pensions' newly defined Data Governance Program included creating a new Business Data Model to improve and organize their data structure. Once built, the Model was to then be enriched by defining a set of Data Quality Rules that prevented the uptake of bad data, as well as measuring the quality of the data that was already held by NOW: Pensions.

The team at NOW: Pensions identified three main challenges:

1. The 'as-is' data wasn't clear. Like most large organizations, NOW: Pensions' data estate had grown organically and was a complex environment of legacy data storage and multiple applications. It had also been affected by at least two data migrations.

2. A Business Data Model was needed to guarantee that the right data was available to users and that there was one source of truth.

3. Data Quality Rules were required to measure current data quality and to stop bad data re-permeating systems.

Key to addressing all these challenges was achieving an understanding of where data originated and what data flowed to where.

How NOW: Pensions used Solidatus to address their key challenges

Mapping data lineage

NOW: Pensions used our powerful data lineage functionality to map their 'as-is' data lineage from its point of origin right through to the data warehouse. For the duration of the onboarding process, automated connectors which linked to their SQL databases refreshed each day to give them an up-to-date view of each table within their source systems. This gave them an accurate snapshot of how their databases were structured and provided cataloguing of the technical metadata for every column within each individual table, such as data type and field length.

Individual source system models could then be joined to show the transitions from the source systems through the staging databases to their data warehouse.

Creating a Business Glossary

NOW: Pensions created a Business Glossary to provide a common language for all the terminology within each source system. Solidatus Reference Models allow subject-matter experts (SMEs) across the organization to record the terms their area uses; these can then be shared, centrally collated, and disseminated across the business to ensure consistency of understanding and eliminate confusion.

Building a Business Data Model

Once a new Business Data Model was created within Solidatus, the source systems could then be mapped to Entities within the lineage models so that the data architects and developers were confident with what each of the column headers referred to. Business rules could then be defined to ensure that all the data fields in the new model were correct even though the data came from a variety of systems.

> " When we started our data governance project, we did not fully understand how our data was produced, transformed and, ultimately, used. We hadn't mapped our data's lineage or populated a data dictionary. Now, all that has changed. With Solidatus, our data estate is now mapped, modelled and catalogued.
>
> In a single view, I can show the business where their data resides, how it flows through systems and applications, what data quality rules apply and what data is subject to GDPR. Solidatus is central to the way that we govern data.
>
> *Phil Yeoman, Group CDO, Cardano and NOW: Pensions*

Key benefits

Using Solidatus, you create living blueprints that map how your data flows, and how it's affected, as it moves around your systems – both now and at other points in time.

A Solidatus data lineage blueprint reveals hidden opportunities and threats and is very effective at showing you the impact of change. It gives you more clarity and an enriched understanding of your ecosystem.

NOW: Pensions is using Solidatus as their central Data Governance tool. This has resulted in:

- A single workflow for managing collaboration among users and facilitating the effective development of Models. Their data architects can now see the structure of their databases and where the required data is without relying on SMEs from each area to describe each table.

- 'As-is' models providing a clear view of where the data entered their systems, which was invaluable in identifying where to execute Data Quality Rules.

- A complete view of how their entire data landscape is structured, allowing users to experiment on a linked snapshot of the current view and assess the impact of making changes.

- A common language for their terminology to avoid confusion caused by people referring to the same data fields by different names based on the source system it originated from.

- Full transparency across their data landscape, allowing NOW: Pensions to easily identify member PII data and, consequently, masking the data to ensure that only employees that require access to it to perform their role can view it.

- A Business Data Model built with the confidence that only correct and timely data can be viewed with the proper business rules in place to consolidate various sources.

Why NOW: Pensions chose Solidatus to power their data governance program

Simplicity

Our intuitive interface is quick to learn and is flexible and scalable. NOW: Pensions were able to begin mapping their data flows quickly and start achieving their data governance targets soon after Solidatus was integrated into their workflow.

Competitive cost

NOW: Pensions needed a cost-effective solution to manage their data governance challenges – we were able to provide all the functionality they required and more for a market leading price. Choosing the Solidatus solution gives our customers a high ROI.

Leading customer service

The team at NOW: Pensions commented on the 'personal touch' and attention to detail that we were able to give them during onboarding and implementation. Our customer service team is continuing to provide NOW: Pensions with support and regular product updates.

Free trial

We'd love to show you how Solidatus can benefit you.

Sign up for a free trial or demo on our website at **solidatus.com** or email us on **hello@solidatus.com**.