

Gap Tames Retail Data Growth With IBM Optim Solution from Estuate



Background

Gap Inc. is a leading global retailer offering clothing, accessories, and personal care products for men, women, and children under the Gap, Banana Republic, Old Navy, Piperlime, Athleta, and Intermix brands. Fiscal year 2014 net sales were \$16.4 billion. Gap Inc. products are available for purchase in more than 90 countries worldwide through about 3,300 company-operated stores, over 400 franchise stores, and e-commerce sites.

Business Challenge

Application data within the Gap's Oracle Retail Suite was growing at a rapid clip, creating production instances in the half-terabyte range. Bigger instances required more DBA administration, and made it hard to maintain for updates, patches and upgrades. Moreover, it was a challenge to adhere to corporate data retention policies. Gap not only needed a solution for their immediate needs, but also a sound long-term strategy to solve the data growth challenges with respect to resources, compliance and maintaining business continuity.

The Estuate Solution

Working with IBM and Estuate, Gap managed this data growth efficiently while giving business users easy access to archived data as needed. The solution:

- Delivered an archival solution for Gap's Oracle Retail application. IBM Infosphere Optim was used to build a standard template for the ReSa and RMS modules. The RMS module consisted of various applications such as Stock Ledger, Stock Count, Transfers, PO, Tran_data_Hist, Shipments etc.

- ⦿ Reduced storage and CPU costs and simplified application maintenance.
- ⦿ Automated all the archival and delete procedures, while ensuring rigorous security around sensitive business and personal data.
- ⦿ Delivered templates for Oracle Retail archival supported long-term by IBM and Estuate.

Business Impact

By adopting a proven approach for archiving historical data, Gap efficiently archived application data, keeping the historical data accessible while cutting costs and supporting ongoing archiving and compliance requirements. The solution:

- ⦿ Reduced Oracle Retail storage requirements especially in the European and Chinese markets
- ⦿ Improved Oracle Retail application performance.
- ⦿ Lowered IT costs by archiving inactive data.
- ⦿ Maintained easy and appropriate levels of access to archive data.
- ⦿ Increased IT operational efficiencies with streamlined maintenance processes.
- ⦿ Ensured regulatory compliance with complete enforcement of data retention and disposition policies.

Estuate has proven to one of the leading practitioners of Information Lifecycle Governance and Security solutions, and complements their expertise with extreme professionalism and an outstanding can-do attitude. Their knowledge of IBM Optim and Oracle Retail, coupled with their extensive knowledge of relevant business processes and best practices around information management, made them the ideal partner, and were critical to the success of this project. "

Ramesh Nagarajan
Project Manager, Gap Inc.

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