

Kentucky Department of Health Steps Up Data Privacy and Application Development With Estuate Solution



Background

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) is home to most of the state's human services and healthcare programs, including the Department of Medicaid Services, the Department of Community Based Services the Department for Public Health and the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. CHFS is one of the largest agencies in state government, with nearly 8,000 full- and part-time employees located across the Commonwealth focused on improving the lives and health of Kentuckians.

Business Challenge

The Kentucky Department of Health depended on their customized business-critical applications to drive results. However, it was becoming increasingly difficult to deploy new applications, upgrades and enhancements. Generating realistic application development and testing environments was critical to deliver the right solutions for the department. However, cloning large production databases for development and testing purposes extended cycle times, increased the volume of data propagated throughout the organization and significantly raised costs.

Moreover, there was a need to support compliance requirements, protect data privacy across nonproduction environments. The application environment contained volumes of Private Healthcare Information (PHI). In order to safeguard privacy, it was necessary to mask sensitive data such as personal identification, social security numbers and tax ID numbers.

The Department needed a solution that would automate processes wherever possible and reduce the time to set up test data for each testing cycle. Any solution had to reduce the data processing requirements and lower the cost of masking test data from production environments.

Business Challenge

The Department's initiative for protecting privacy required a solution with capabilities for masking data in nonproduction environments and across applications, databases, operating systems and hardware platforms. Similarly, ensuring reliability and maintaining critical business applications required automated test data management capabilities that would shorten the time to create and refresh development, testing and training environments.

Estuate's Data Privacy solution provided comprehensive data masking capabilities to protect privacy across nonproduction environments, while the Test Data Management solution provided automated subset-and-compare capabilities to further improve testing efficiencies. Estuate's solution:

- Discovers data relationships automatically.
- Decreases database size while securing sensitive, regulated data.
- Shortens iterative testing cycles.
- Masks confidential data in lower environments based on business policies to ensure privacy.

Business Impact

Estuate's solution allowed the client to achieve significant efficiencies while securing sensitive data. The solution:

Reduced data extraction time from 34 hours to 25 hours by creating and managing test data. This saved test data provisioning time and effort, helped ensure data consistency, and reduced storage costs throughout the application life cycle.

Reduced the risk exposure by preserving client data confidentiality.

- Reduced data masking cost due to reusability of a single solution addressing a wide range of technologies.
- Reduced overall cost of data masking cost by using a common solution across a wide range of applications.
- Improved compliance with regulatory requirements and guidelines.
- Optimized infrastructure, storage costs and total cost of ownership (TCO).

"Estuate's solution allows us to automate processes for creating and managing masked data across our development, testing and training environments. The time we save lets us test new functionality, develop reliable applications and ultimately make our applications more robust to improve business operations and service. Thanks to Estuate, we can stop worrying about data privacy and development bottlenecks and focus on our core mission - serving our citizens."

Amit Dilip Patil

Manager, Business intelligence and Data warehousing

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