TECHNOLOGY: . . . . **MS SQL, Power BI**	REGION: . . . . **South Africa**	TYPE: . . . . **Skills Gap Fulfilment**
FRAMEWORK: . . . . Data Modelling	REACH: . . . . South Africa	ENGAGEMENT: . . Managed Services
INDUSTRY: . . . . Manufacturing		COST: . . . . Monthly

Overview

The daily activities of organisations generate multiple points of data, and these data points are not all in the same location.

Some data may be in sales, some in production and other in human resources systems.

This causes difficulties in determining relationships between the data and gaining a holistic view to make decisions. Combining the data can be a massive task, involving multiple sources and individuals.
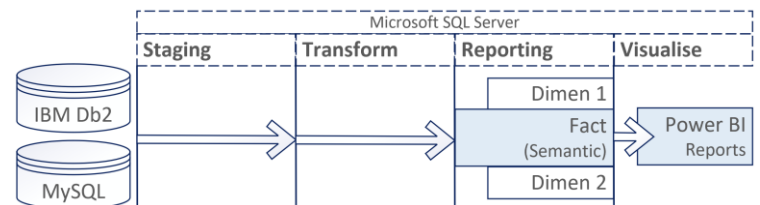
The **risk** is that this gathering of data becomes a regular task, and the focus on the analysis of the data gets lost.

Belgotex is a leading soft flooring specialist, designing, manufacturing, and distributing high-quality flooring solutions. Vast amounts of data are generated, spread across the organization.

First Digital identified gaps in the availability data to report on and initiated the development of a **common data warehouse** where all the data could be moved to and be modelled.

Approach

Core data was extracted from the **IBM** servers (IBM db2 I series) and moved to a central **Microsoft SQL** server. The data was modelled, and relationships identified with the help of business users and the various subject matter experts.

To implement proper data lifecycle governance, data was moved first to a staging area for consolidation, then to a transformation area where the business logic was added to normalise and enrich the dataset. Visualisation of the data is done via many different and dynamic reports within **Microsoft Power BI**.

First Digital provided Belgotex with a semantic layer to report from, giving them reporting dimensions and features they previously did not have, including dynamic reporting and drill through functionality.

The solution was designed to incorporate future real-time reporting from IoT devices spread throughout the manufacturing plant.

Summary and Benefits

By implementing the Microsoft data and analytics stack, First Digital enabled Belgotex to benefit from modern reporting tools, new data dimensions and future proof the solution to accept IoT data from the factory. Benefits include:

- Fully automated to allow users to focus on the analysis rather than the gathering of data
- Central reporting location for all the data to identify relationships and correlations
- Dynamic reporting that allows for richer data exploration

See More

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