

Decision Inc. delivers an automated Daily Result Planner for a clothing retail chain's 1000+ stores

Problem: Each of the store managers were required to produce a daily report of sales figures and other data. This was completed manually but with the company growing to over 1000 stores the business wanted to automate this process.

Solution: Decision Inc. configured Microsoft's PowerBI platform to automatically produce this report by pulling store data from the company's own systems.

Benefit: The company has now saved 30,000 man hours per year through automating this report across all of their 1000 plus stores.



ABOUT THE CLIENT

The client is a South African chain of clothing retail stores. Founded in 1916, they have over 1000 stores across Southern Africa, including Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, eSwatini and Zambia.

THE REQUIREMENT

The client wanted to digitise a store report used across all of its 1000 plus stores. Before Decision Inc's involvement, each store manager needed to collate sales and budget data and compare this with the current and previous day's sales figures and combine this onto a printed spreadsheet. The spreadsheet is called the Result Planner and was produced manually and would be completed before trading hours started.

Given that the client has over 1000 stores, this manual process was being duplicated many times and its management identified this as an area they would like to digitise so that they can improve efficiency and gain greater visibility of their stores' daily activity - thus becoming more data-driven as a business. Knowing Decision Inc's expertise in this area, they approached Decision Inc. to assist them with this process.



THE SOLUTION

Decision Inc. specialist consultants reviewed the company's current processes and recommended the use of Microsoft PowerBI to digitise and automate the production of the Result Planner.

Microsoft Power BI is a robust business intelligence and analytics tool that gives companies access to a rich set of data visualisation tools. Both technical and non-technical users can create visually appealing and interactive reports, making it easier to communicate complex insights.

The advantage of using PowerBI for this digitisation is that it seamlessly integrates with a wide range of data sources, including on-premises databases, cloud services, and various file formats, allowing for the relevant store data to easily be pulled into the platform.

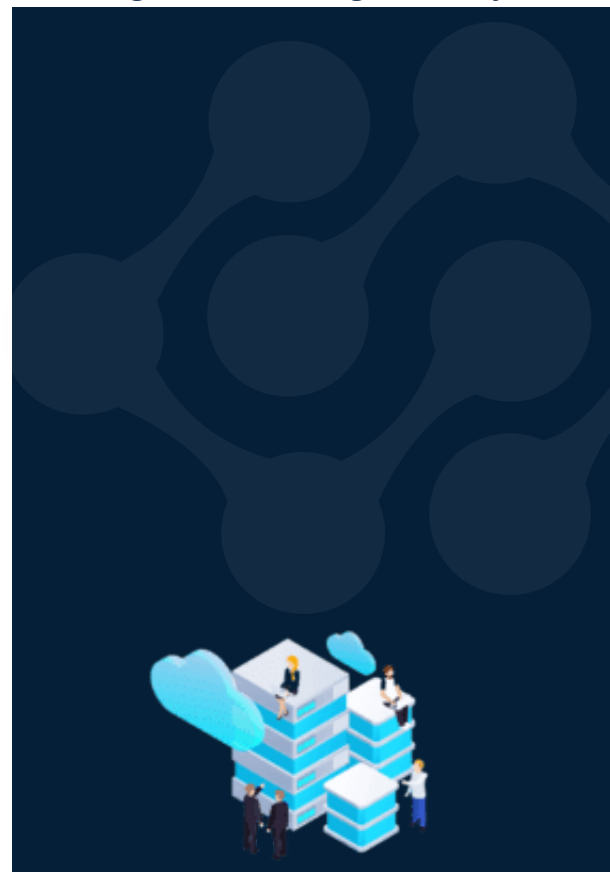
Decision Inc. created the report in PowerBI so that it mirrored the one on paper – with identical columns and headings etc. The staff had previously tried to create this report digitally but weren't able to create an exact match. Decision Inc. were able to solve this for them and the report is now produced automatically without any human effort – across all of their 1000 plus stores.

To aid visibility of the report, it was embedded into the company's internal SharePoint portal, so users don't have to access PowerBI directly to see the report. The report has dynamic row-level security in such a way that the store managers can only see their own store's data. This allows regional managers to get a broader view but protects local store managers from seeing data they do not have permission to view.

THE BENEFITS

The client's sheer volume of stores means that this has brought a cumulative saving of 30,000 man-hours per year through digitising this single report.

With the data being pulled automatically from their own systems, it means that human error and inaccurate reporting is removed from this process and that the leadership team can access store data automatically from the comfort of their home or office – instead of having to have the results collated for them from the paper reports.





■ ABOUT DECISION INC. _____



Decision Inc. is a global digital partner that enables businesses to reinvent themselves to realise their full potential.

We deliver agility, resilience, and intelligence to any enterprise, enabling them to adapt quickly and thrive through innovation and opportunity.

Our teams have engaged with more than 400 clients globally over the past 15 years, providing them with the expertise to build, operate, and optimise their digital businesses.

We achieve this by leveraging the world's best technology to drive our client's business ambitions forward into tomorrow's reality.

Our success is ultimately driven by our entrepreneurial culture, industry exposure, and the passion of our people. We have three key cross-functional teams – Functional and Specialist Consulting, Development, and Engineering teams.

Based in four global offices, our exceptional consultants focus on delivering value to clients by keeping them at the centre of our service delivery.