

SAP Datasphere Implementation.

Decision Inc. Transformed a leading Thermal Coal Exporter into a data - driven business with SAP Datasphere.



ABOUT THE CLIENT

This organisation is one of a leading South African thermal coal exporter, and one of the largest pure-play producers and exporters of thermal coal in South Africa, based on aggregate thermal coal reserves and marketable thermal coal production. As of 31 December 2020, This consumer employs 7,525 employees and independent contractors. This excludes third-party service providers.

THE REQUIREMENT

The client required a data warehouse platform that would align with its data strategy and transform it into a data-driven business that prioritises future performance as much as past performance. To achieve this goal, they explored various options to upgrade their data analytics capability and advance their desired level of data maturity.

The client demerged from Anglo American in 2021. As part of their transition program, they separated their current core SAP ERP and SAP BW 7.50 on HANA solutions to the preferred SAP S/4HANA and SAP Datasphere, leveraging SAP BW Bridge to ease the transition on data warehousing.

SAP Datasphere allows the client to converge data coming from SAP and third-party on-premise and cloud environments into a single, fully managed cloud environment to allow the organisation to simplify its data warehousing landscape radically.

SAP Datasphere:

Combines data and analytics in a cloud solution that offers data integration, database, data warehouse, and analytics services. This enables customers to realise their full potential as a data-driven business.

SAP BW bridge is a function enhancement of SAP Datasphere, and it provides a path to the public cloud for SAP BW customers with the benefits of having BW capabilities available natively in SAP Datasphere.

This offers SAP BW capabilities directly in the public cloud:

- The connectivity and business content for SAP BW-based data integration (extractors) from SAP S/4HANA.
- The SAP Business Warehouse layer for loading data with partitioning, monitoring, and error handling, all tailored to the needs of a company.

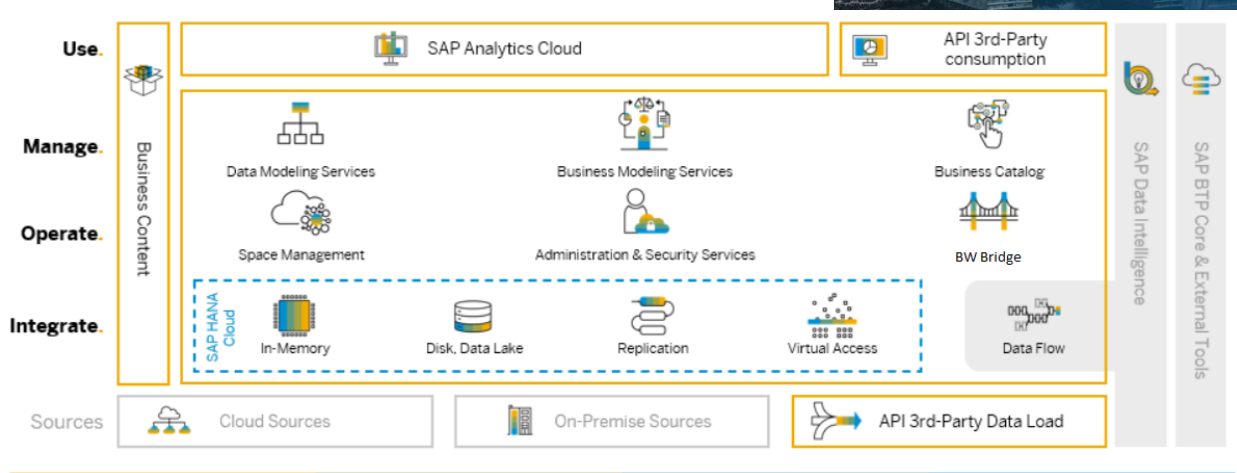


Figure 1: SAP Datasphere Cloud Architecture

THE SOLUTION

The client approached Decision Inc. to assist them with implementing SAP Datasphere. We empowered their team with an in-memory data warehouse managed entirely by SAP. This implementation has provided them with a seamless platform for handling their data needs efficiently and effectively. Decision Inc. also made sure to emphasise the importance of involving the business stakeholders throughout the implementation process.



Decision Inc.'s Implementation Approach:

Our implementation approach was centered around empowering the business to take ownership of their data and understand how it is compiled within SAP Datasphere.

Key components of our methodology included:

Design-Led Approach:

We adopted a design-led approach, placing a strong emphasis on understanding the needs and requirements of the business stakeholders. This involved collaborating closely with business users to design solutions tailored to their specific needs and objectives.

Project Management and Scrum Sessions:

A dedicated project manager facilitated the implementation process, ensuring that project milestones were met and that all workstreams progressed smoothly. Scrum sessions were conducted for each workstream, providing a structured framework for collaboration and decision-making.

Weekly Playbacks and Feedback:

To ensure ongoing alignment with business requirements, we organised weekly playbacks where stakeholders could review progress and provide feedback. This iterative approach allowed us to incorporate stakeholder input throughout the implementation process, ensuring that the final solution met their expectations.

Fit-for-Purpose Solution:

Our overarching goal was to deliver a fit-for-purpose solution that addressed the specific needs and challenges of the business units at the client. By involving stakeholders from the outset and continuously seeking their feedback, we were able to tailor the solution to meet their unique requirements.

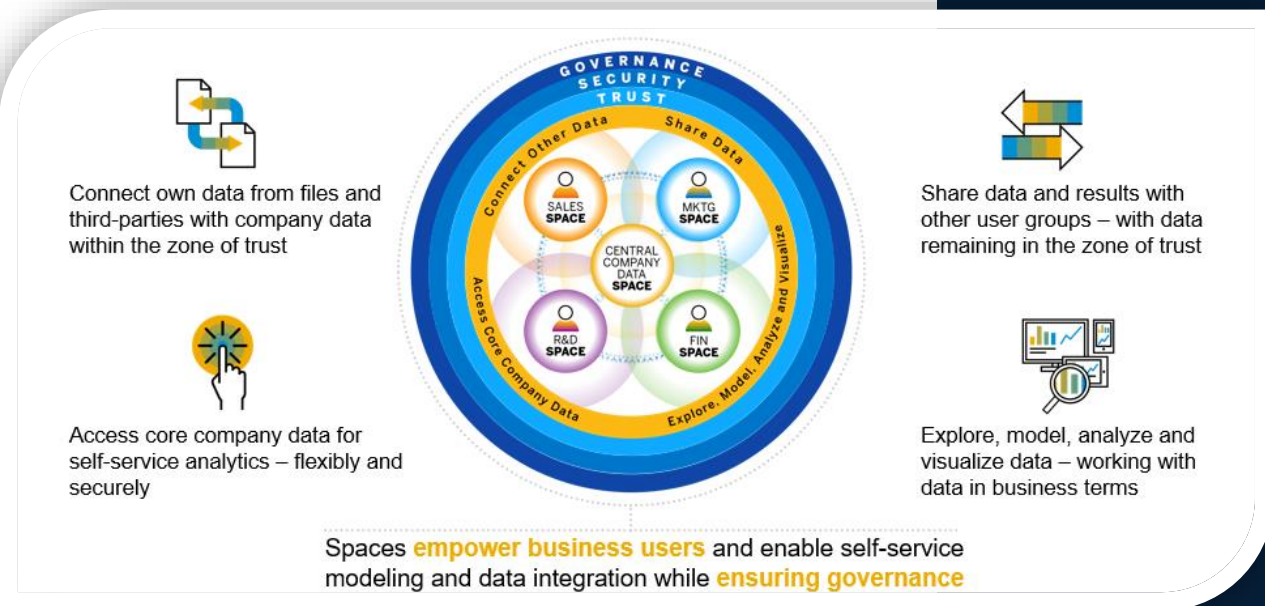


Figure 2: Spaces: Source: SAP Datasphere Cloud L2 Public 2022-01.ppt

THE OUTCOME

The project delivered significant improvements in process execution, together with a dramatic reduction in manual intervention.



Together, Decision Inc. and the client followed an end-user led approach to design an end-to-end reporting platform. This approach was executed by designing the desired experience each end-user required, defining the enabling elements required to deliver the desired experience. This will inspire the business to sustain and scale on the end-to-end data solution and ultimately enshrine a solid data driven culture.

Through this, the main objective was to enable the business users to own their data and to ensure that all reporting was relevant for each division's key measurements.

Key benefits that came from following a design-led approach:

- ENHANCED DATA OWNERSHIP:**
By involving business stakeholders throughout the implementation process, we were able to foster a sense of ownership and accountability for the data within the organisation.
- IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING:**
Business users gained a deeper understanding of how their data was compiled within SAP Datasphere, enabling them to make more informed decisions based on data insights.
- INCREASED STAKEHOLDER SATISFACTION:**
Regular playbacks and feedback sessions ensured that stakeholders were actively engaged in the implementation process and satisfied with the final solution.
- FIT-FOR-PURPOSE SOLUTION:**
By prioritising stakeholder input and requirements, we delivered a solution that was tailored to the specific needs of the business, ensuring its relevance and effectiveness.

The solution also enabled the following benefits:

Empowering End-users: Reducing Business Reliance On It

Advanced data management tools have reduced dependence on IT support, enabling employees to independently access, analyse, and utilise data, promoting efficiency and self-sufficiency.

Strategic Focus: Empowering It And Data Experts

Allowed IT and data experts to focus on more complex analytics scenarios and strategic initiatives, making them more responsive to the evolving needs of the business.

Enhancing Collaboration: Sharing Insights For Unified Decision-making

Improved collaboration by enabling seamless sharing of insights among authorised stakeholders. This fosters better communication, consensus-building, and overall data trust within the organisation.



In the end, this client has a robust and performant data warehouse layer that provides a single layer of truth for reporting into different analytical tools and platforms across their business. Catering for operational detail reports up to strategic reporting on an executive level.



■ 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.