

Knowledge Solutions LLC

Helping you make informed business decisions!

Data Warehousing Division



*ERP Integration and
Business Intelligence*

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ERP Integration and Business Intelligence

White Paper

**Good companies manage their ERP systems.
Great companies manage their ERP data!**

Corporate Challenges

ERP systems play a vital role in the administration of a company. They function to make our day-to-day business lives a lot easier and more efficient. However, corporations commonly face three crucial challenges with their ERP environment: data archive, data integration and data usage. **First, ERP systems are upgraded but historical data must be retained.** Due to changing business needs, companies may have to upgrade their ERP system. However, the data on the old system version must not get lost and get archived. This creates the challenge that upgrading historical data from one ERP system to another is often time consuming, complex and costly.

Second, ERP data is often isolated from other corporate information. ERP data often provides a myopic perspective of a corporation's operations or division; e.g., financial, human resources, etc. However, ERP data combined with other corporate data can create a corporate view, as well as, a functional view. As an example, Retail companies are able to integrate CRM and Call Center data with ERP data to provide a holistic perspective on the true life-cycle value of a customer and their propensity to buy, pay or leave. Hospitals integrate ERP, billing and claims data to provide claims workflow management to manage and reduce their outstanding claims accounts receivables.

Larger corporations have a particular challenge with their ERP environments. These corporations often have multiple ERP and Legacy systems to represent different divisions, business units or corporate acquisitions. As such, it is difficult to aggregate information across ERP systems on a functional (e.g., financial) level let alone the incorporation of additional corporate or 3rd party data.

Third and final, ERP data is not analytical information. ERP systems often have reporting capabilities but limited Business Intelligence (BI) tools that provide capabilities such as multi-dimensional analysis, dashboards, scorecard, and flexible ad hoc reporting / querying. BI tools can provide insight as to how to compete, what to offer, how to drive more business and how to change one's operations. In addition, if these BI capabilities are placed on the ERP system the BI analytics and querying may impede the performance of the ERP system.

An ERP system and its data are critical assets to a company. As such, all companies require an ERP and data strategy to reduce their total cost of ownership and increase the effectiveness of the company.

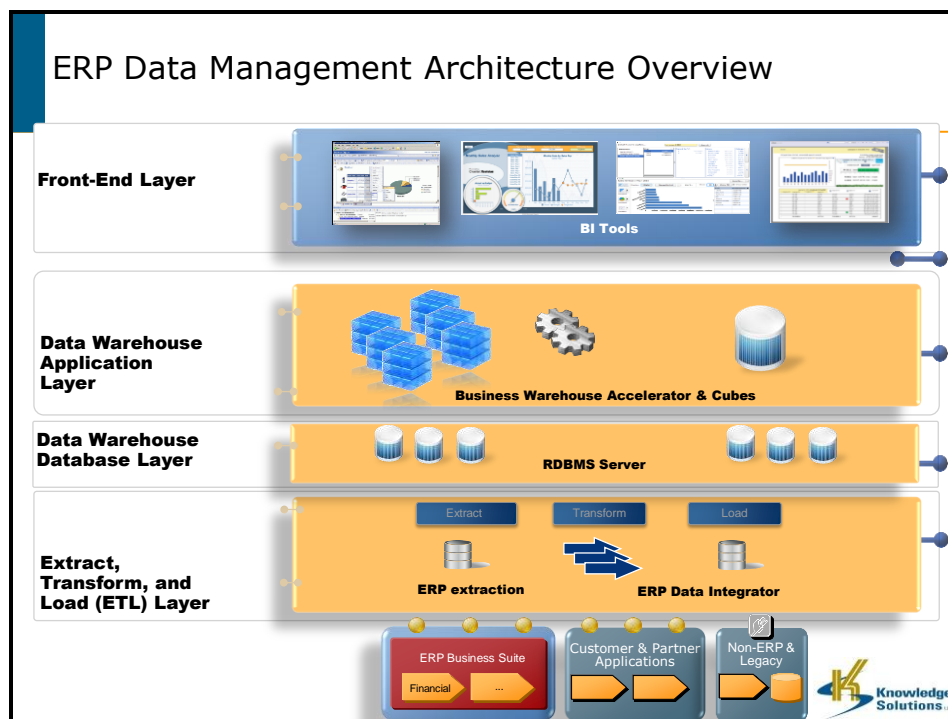
Knowledge Solutions and ERP Data Management Solution

More and more companies recognize that their ERP system and its data are critical assets to their company. However, many lack an ERP data environment to protect and utilize this asset to reduce their total cost of ownership, to transition system data to corporate information, to rapidly address corporate initiatives and increase the effectiveness of their company. To overcome the ERP challenges outlined above, corporations require an ERP Data Management solution that:

- 1) **Extracts and stores data from the ERP system** – isolates the ERP system for high performance business transactional processing,
- 2) **Establishes a single repository for ERP and non-ERP data** – provides an integrated view of corporate information, and
- 3) **Leverages industry standard business intelligence tools and applications** – enabling an accessible and consistent user environment for analysis and reporting capabilities.

Knowledge Solutions, LLC is a leading provider “ERP Data Management” based solution. The core of KS’s solution is a four layered architecture:

- **Extract, Transform, and Load (ETL) Layer** – for acquiring ERP and non-ERP data;
- **Database Layer** – for data consistency, organization, integration and management;
- **Application Layer** – to correlate the data to business needs and information requirements; and
- **Front-End Layer** – to provide the business end-user rapid insight, visualization and analysis.



Knowledge Solutions utilizes industry leading technologies to provides corporations with:

- Massive processing capabilities for loading, storing, and accessing data;
- World-class performance, scalability, availability, and manageability;
- Efficient data and information management, any question, any data, any time;
- Scalable, flexible Data Warehouse Management, modeling and operations; and
- Significant report generation acceleration.

In essence, the architecture:

- **Protects existing ERP and data investments** through Data Warehousing techniques and technology,
- Allow customers to consolidate on one data warehouse for a **single version of the truth**,

- Consolidate to one business intelligence solution to **increase accessibility and reduce end-user training,**
- **Reduce Total Cost of Ownership** by standardization and harmonization of components for reduced development time and cost, and
- Provide **additional flexibility and data integration capability** by supporting corporate data warehouse functionality on top of the ERP environment.

Utilizing this solution, corporations should expect to achieve:

- **Reduced Total Cost of Ownership**
 - Decrease in ERP systems consulting costs.
 - Reduced performance and maintenance support costs through centralized data warehousing.
 - Reduced legacy systems and application support costs by accelerated retirement.
 - Cost reduction in BI reports & analytic development and maintenance, and end-user training.
- **More capabilities and control**
 - Business users are able to use their Business Intelligence (LBI) or preferred 3rd party BI tool to query directly against an integrated data warehouse.

About Knowledge Solutions

Knowledge Solutions (KS) is a leading provider of information management services delivering strategic solutions that addresses the complex business needs of its clients. With focus on integrating technology, business processes and policies, Knowledge Solutions delivers business-driven and user-centric capabilities that add continuous and measurable value. Core Services include business intelligence, ERP planning, implementation and support, and Complete IT support.

Since KS's inception, we have been successfully developing and deploying BI solutions. KS BI staff has an average of 18 years of experience. As a BI Solution provider, KS has implemented data warehouses in industries such as Communications, Healthcare, Financial, Insurance, Retail, Public Sector, and Publishing.

For more information about Knowledge Solutions, please see www.ksols.com.

Also, follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/KnowledgeSols>.

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