

REVELWOOD SUCCESS STORY**REIT Optimizes the Performance of IBM Planning Analytics****OVERVIEW**

Industry: Real Estate

CUSTOMER PROFILE

A publicly traded REIT

CHALLENGE

Improve the performance and memory requirements of an allocation cube that uses more than 30GB of memory.

SOLUTION

IBM Planning Analytics

BENEFITS

- Improved the performance of the cube by more than 99%
- Aligned cube processing with business requirements
- By converting the challenge into a business issue, they solved the technology issue

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A publicly traded REIT (real estate investment trust) with more than 3,000 properties needed to upgrade their environment. They engaged with Revelwood to both help with the upgrade and help convert their existing reports to the new version. During this process, Revelwood discovered that an IBM Planning Analytics allocation cube was using a massive amount of RAM. This meant that the processing was really slow and the performance was not ideal.

The Revelwood team worked together with the client to dig deeper into why that cube was so large. The company has approximately 1,000 tenants, with some expenses for each property allocated to the associated tenant. However, the model was originally built to process allocations to every tenant – even in situations where the property only had a single tenant. As a result, the post-allocation cube was almost 1,000 times larger than the pre-allocation expense cube. The pre-allocation cube used 40MB of memory, while the post-allocation cube was using more than 30GB of memory.

“Our IT team likes to keep our systems running as efficiently as possible,” said the vice president of enterprise systems, at the REIT. “Yes, we could have simply bought more RAM. But it made more sense for us to work with Revelwood to determine why that cube was using that much memory.”

Getting Back to the Business Basics

The Revelwood team worked with the client's FP&A team to better understand the business requirements for its Planning Analytics environment. The combined team determined that almost all the properties were associated with only one tenant. Fewer than 50 properties had more than one tenant and only 13 properties had more than two tenants. By discovering this information, the team realized they could make the model perform more efficiently.

A Two-Step Approach

Revelwood took a strategic approach to changing the model. They wanted to solve the technology issue of slow performance and they did this by converting it into a business problem that could be solved by investigating how the business functioned.

“The Revelwood team did a lot of work behind the scenes before we had our collaborative working sessions,” commented the VP. “They came to us with pointed questions and asked what was important. It helped shed a light on the right approach for us to take to solve our memory usage problem.”

First, the team created a TurboIntegrator script to determine the applicable property-tenant combinations by analyzing data in one of the allocation definition cubes. If data existed, an assumption was made that the combination existed.

About Revelwood

Revelwood helps finance organizations close, consolidate, plan, monitor and analyze business performance. As experts in solutions for the Office of Finance, we partner with best-in-breed software companies by applying best practices guidance and our pre-configured applications to help businesses achieve their full potential.

Gold
Business
Partner



Competency
Data Science &
Business Analytics

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Once the combinations were defined, the team updated the rules to ensure that the calculations were only processed for the applicable combinations.

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Time Savings = Better Business Outcomes

The client didn’t just update its Planning Analytics environment – they took the opportunity to examine and optimize their existing business processes. The end result is that they trimmed down a cube that used more than 30GB to one requiring only 65MB of memory. This was an improvement of more than 99%.

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