Transitioning from Netezza to Actian
Global bank realizes large improvements in performance and TCO

Business
- Global Banking

Challenge
- Transition and upgrade from end-of-life Netezza
- Create one repository for all transaction data
- Monitor and manage client exposure and risk
- Improve price/performance

Outcome
- Lower TCO with an expected $20M savings over five years
- Improved query performance from days to minutes
- Faster, complete data analysis and reporting for improved business insights

Overview

The Bank is a global leader in corporate and investment banking and trading across a broad range of asset classes. It oversees more than 50 million consumer and small business relationships, with over 5,000 retail banking offices and 16,000 ATMs. Its online banking division oversees about 30 million active users along with more than 15 million mobile users.

Challenge

The Bank's in-house analytics solution, Netezza, had reached its end-of-life cycle and was not going to be supported by IBM or its channel partners. Finding a cost-effective, scalable solution was paramount.

The Bank needed to create one data repository for all positions across all asset classes, thereby enabling ad hoc analysis of positions and their sensitivity to market factors such as volatility, interest rate changes, timing, and more. In addition, the Bank had massive volumes of structured and unstructured data that needed to be digested, analyzed, and acted on in short order.

The Bank also wanted greater visibility into its risk exposure. It knew that, presently, managing client risk and exposure was at 20th-century levels. For example, risk and opportunity value was analyzed via batch data dumps once a day. The Bank needed greater insights, delivered in sub-minute intervals, multiple times a day. It also had additional criteria that had to be met, including improved price/performance levels, ease of development and maintenance, durability, and a palatable TCO.

Solution

The Bank assessed several analytics platforms against its existing Netezza solution. The evaluation process, conducted over a period of several months, included a performance proof of concept, in which Actian ran on five compute node clusters versus Twinfin's 24 nodes. Actian required a fraction of the hardware that Netezza was using.

The assessment also involved a security audit, design previews, compression comparisons, volume-handling ability, loading, stress, ad hoc queries, and an in-depth comparison between Actian and Netezza.

Actian outperforms the competition in all critical areas

The Bank was impressed by Actian's level of expertise and partnership. The ability to seamlessly shift away from end-of-life Netezza while improving the overall quality of its data analysis made the decision an easy one for the Bank. With Actian, the Bank is now able to deal with both structured and unstructured data. It can run complex analytics in record time—lowering response times from hours or days to minutes—with on-demand integration, an extensible framework, and higher performance levels.
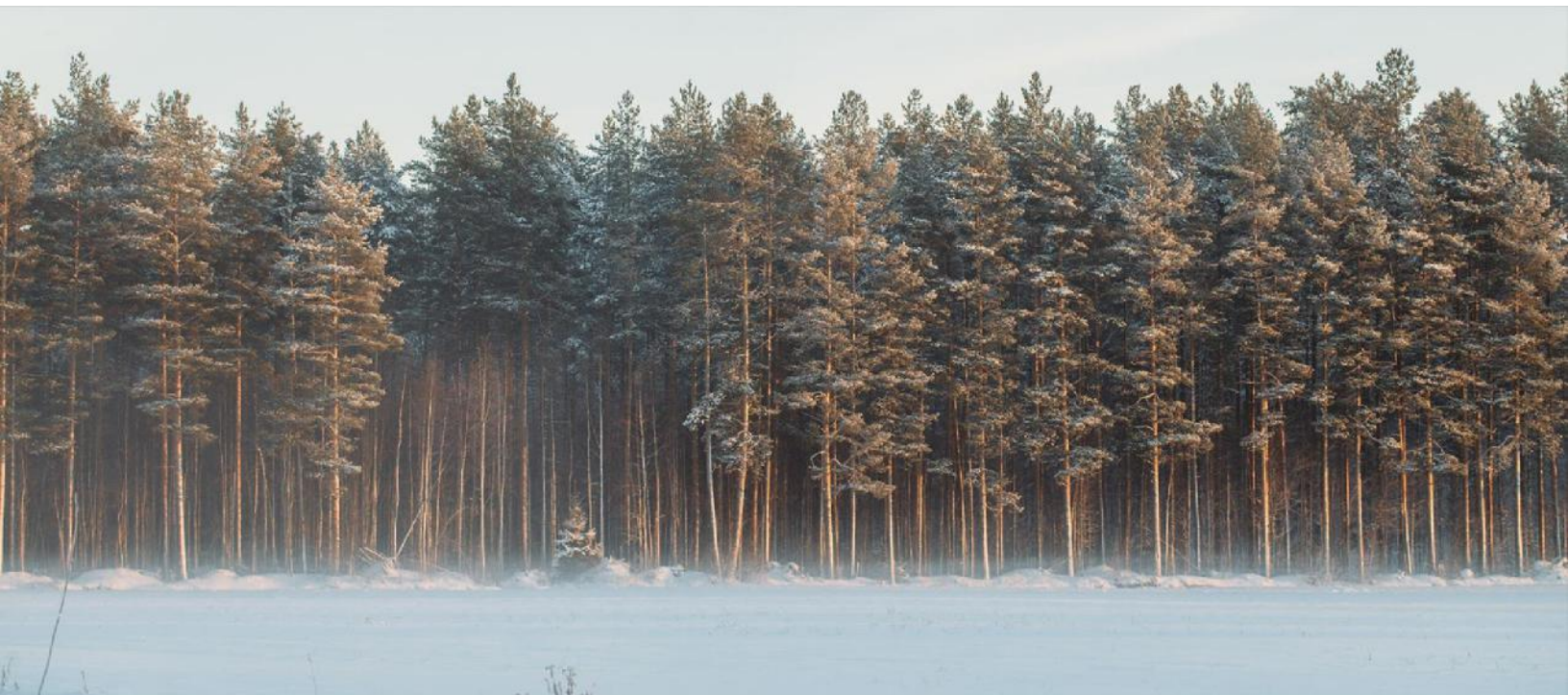
Overall, Actian presented a more cost-effective approach, including lower development costs with fewer staffing needs and the ability to re-use in-house hardware. And, along with the best price/performance for an analytics solution, Actian simply outperformed the competition in nearly every category, including the critically important quickest time to value and fastest response times to market changes or opportunities. Actian was able to exceed the performance and functionality of Netezza while lowering overall cost of ownership. In fact, the bank estimates it will save $20 million dollars over five years based on the replacement of legacy technology. The entire process went so well that the Bank already has sights on adding distributed functionality to its Consumer Business sector and to its Security group.

About Actian Avalanche

Actian Avalanche data warehouse is a high-performance, vectorized columnar analytic database that provides the power to connect, analyze, and act on big data with unmatched speed.

Available both on-premise and in the cloud, the Avalanche compute engine is designed to deliver consistently high performance as you increase the number of users and data volumes. Because Avalanche runs on any Windows or Linux hardware, adding nodes is trivial compared to appliance-based approaches.

With Avalanche, organizations can better transform insights gained from big data into business value, use data from disparate sources and deliver next-generation analytics up to nine times faster than the competition.