



SyncSort

Success Story: Revenue Commissioners

The Revenue Commissioners Count on SyncSort for the Processing of Ireland's Tax Records

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John Barron
Assistant Principal
Revenue Commissioners

Organizational Profile

- Founded in 1923 to fairly and efficiently collect taxes and duties in Ireland
- Implement import and export controls

Business Need

- Reduce elapsed time of a business intelligence application

Environment

- Solaris
- Ingres database

Benefits

- Provided better-than-expected performance results
- Processed 2.6 million records in just 100 seconds
- Offered the sorting and file manipulation functionality needed on the UNIX platform
- Easy to use

The Challenge:

The Revenue Commissioners (Revenue) are responsible for the collection of taxes and duties as well as implementing import and export controls in the Republic of Ireland. In the late 1990s, Revenue embarked on a major overhaul of its computerized systems. Assistant Principal John Barron of Revenue's ICT Strategy, Architecture and Infrastructure Branch explains, "Our mainframe systems were aging. These systems had been built over the decades as we needed them, and were subject to the technologies of the day. This meant that we had separate legacy systems for different taxes, for example we had a Value-Added Tax (VAT) system and a completely separate Income Tax system. What we wanted to do was move to an integrated solution where we had a single national tax register and a consolidated view of all transactions, so if we looked at company X, we could see company X's VAT, Income Tax, PAYE Remittances, Corporation Tax, and other records. We wanted to build this 'whole case view' from a business and tax administration perspective, and we also wished to modernize our systems in order to make them easier to use, to achieve better performance and make them easier to adapt going forward."

The Revenue Commissioners developed their new integrated taxation system around enterprise scale UNIX systems, relational databases and the J2EE standard. John continues, "On the mainframe, we had excellent tools for sorting and file manipulation. When we migrated to UNIX, we needed to find similar software. We looked at what other large agencies were using and also evaluated a number of products. We chose SyncSort as the best type of software to meet our sorting and file manipulation needs."

The Solution:

"SyncSort forms an integral part of our nightly batch for our main tax collection processes," John adds. "It performs all of the sorting and some file manipulation tasks. It also enables us to do additional heavy-duty database maintenance. We have to keep taxation records for a long time; hence some of our database tables could have over 200 million rows. At certain times it becomes possible to archive some of this data from live to history tables and SyncSort features allow us to readily do this."

The data Revenue receives daily consists of payments and tax returns, as well as updates to an individual's or a company's tax record such as a changed address or other particulars. While the latter changes are updated online, the bulk of transactions that come in during the day are batched and are used to update the live database at night. Both live and archival type data is loaded into the data warehouse for further analysis.

Success Story: The Revenue Commissioners



Benefits:

When using SyncSort for the manipulation of some of the database tables, often with files in excess of three or four gigabytes in size, John comments, "Whether it's processing large or small files, we are impressed with SyncSort's performance. It is fast as well as reliable. It is easy to write its scripts. I remember one of the first scripts that I ever wrote with it was for a file containing 2.6 million records. The first time I ran the script, I actually thought it had failed because it completed in just 100 seconds. Because it was manipulating a file that big, I felt that it wasn't possible to complete the processing in that time. It took me a little bit of time to convince myself that it did actually work and it had done exactly what I wanted it to do."

About SyncSort

SyncSort is the world's leading high-performance commercial sort and data manipulation utility for the UNIX, Windows, Linux, and z/OS operating systems. It speeds ETL transactions by up to 90% and facilitates data mining and click-stream processing. SyncSort merges, aggregates, cleanses, and converts data. Other features include filtering, pattern matching, and partitioning. SyncSort will save you time in operations like data warehousing, data mining, data marts, CRM, ERP, DSS, BI, Oracle Financials, and legacy migration. Using Visual SyncSort, SyncSort applications can be created through a Windows-like GUI. For more information or to arrange for a free trial, call Syncsort at 01732 849000 or visit www.syncsort.com.