How Yulista Slashed Their Budgeting Time from 2 Weeks to 2 Hours

Introduction

Yulista Holding, LLC, headquartered in Huntsville, Alabama, is committed to becoming the best-equipped Alaska Native Corporation (ANC) in the world, performing rapid response aerospace and defense solutions for foreign and domestic customers. Yulista offers innovative expertise and services in Engineering & Manufacturing, Maintenance & Modifications, Integrated Logistics & Product Support, Training Systems & Solutions, and Base Operations & Support Services.

Since their inception in 2002, Yulista's established itself as an industry leader in providing a wide range of rapid response support to the US Department of Defense, various Government agencies, and foreign customers.

Needs

Prior to implementing Dundas BI as their business intelligence (BI) platform of choice, Yulista relied heavily upon Excel for a large majority of their reporting endeavors. They consolidated valuable data regarding revenues, gross margins, incomes, donations, resource management, etc., across their family of nine companies, all of which was aggregated, tracked, and reported on using Excel. However, Yulista realized they needed more than what Excel could provide. Creating reports was a highly manual and time-consuming task. Accessing those reports was equally as arduous, and deriving meaningful, up-to-date insights was very difficult with the use of Excel (plus, with the data being manually entered, there were concerns of errors being made). As a result, they began looking for a full end-to-end BI solution with greater functionality and automation capabilities than Excel could provide.

Yulista wanted more from their reporting solution. With hundreds of ambitious professionals, all clamoring for greater insight into their data, it was clear their current reporting methods weren't going to cut it and they needed a more modern analytics platform. They had questions in regard to salaries, turnover rates, Labor Utilization, and other Human Resource functions. While Excel was a working solution, it wasn't a long-term solution. If the data was available, the insights were often delayed, based on data information, and the result of continuous manual exports. In its current state, reporting was a daunting herculean task. The need for BI was apparent. Yulista's Excel-based system was providing minimal value, and their Director of Business Operations, Richard Harville, was tasked with leading the search for a business intelligence solution.

Solution

The search was on. They began looking for an analytics partner that would not only solve their problems but was also priced to scale according to the needs of their users, was capable of creating beautiful dashboards and reports for data analysis and was able to deliver a seamless analytics experience to all users, regardless of their skills. It was important to them that the solution they'd select was flexible and scalable enough to meet the unique requirements of a company-wide deployment.

As the search intensified and the list of potential vendors narrowed to three, Yulista ultimately selected Dundas BI due to its immense built-in functionality, adaptive data flows, fully open APIs, and extremely flexible pricing model. These factors allowed them to not compromise on their business intelligence and analytics.

> "The low cost to high number of usable features made our decision easy. Compared to all the other vendor's cost to feature ratios, **it just made the most sense to go with Dundas BI"**
>
> **Richard Harville** / Director of Business Operations, Yulista Holding, LLC

Why Yulista Holding, LLC Chose Dundas BI

✔ Fully Customizable Dashboards

Individual members of the BI team at Yulista were often tasked with the entire dashboard creation process, including dashboard design. Dundas BI's fully customizable visualizations and dashboard components enable them to build each dashboard to the exact specifications they were given (sometimes they're asked to replicate a drawing; other times they're simply provided a question and must design a solution that answers it).

✔ Dynamic Row-Level Security

While the majority of dashboards and reports are used by Senior Management and Executives, it is still imperative each individual has access only to the content they're allowed to see. The ability to prevent and grant access using row-level securities ensures Yulista is able to easily manage which content is available to which users.

✔ Platform Extensibility via Scripting

The ability to add custom scripts to Dundas BI means the BI team is able to define their own data interactions. As such, they're able to change dashboard properties and layouts, modify attributes, and hide and show content relevant to dashboards, projects, and users. With Dundas BI, the BI team has complete control over the visual design of their dashboards.

✔ Seamless Data Integration & White-Labeling

Yulista wanted whichever business intelligence platform they chose, to look, feel, and work like their other applications. Dundas BI features one open, flexible BI platform that can consolidate data from any data source (in Yulista's case, this was primarily from their Costpoint® Database), providing seamless data delivery and a consistent user experience. Plus, with Dundas BI, they were able to white-label their solution to display the Yulista logo and match other branding components. This was ideal, as they maintained a handful of dashboards that opened externally of their internal portals.

✔ Embeddability

Yulista opted to embed dashboards directly within their existing Information Portal. As Dundas BI is a server-based technology, it was remarkably simple for them to build, share and view web-based dashboards and reports directly within their business application.

✔ Unique Licensing Structure

Above all else, Yulista wanted a business intelligence solution that returned a favorable cost to feature ratio. Dundas BI's unique licensing structure ensures Yulista is able to achieve a lower cost per user and can scale their solution without hidden costs.

> *"I am extremely impressed with the ability to data mine the numerous fields and generate reports. The ability to drag/drop various columns and priorities sorting is very helpful when pulling metrics against our diverse workforce.* **This is allowing us a closer to real-time analysis then our typical monthly reports that were provided in the past"**
>
> **Ian Neumann** */ General Manager, Yulista Tactical Services, LLC*

> *"Dundas offered excellent features at a very competitive price.* **The visualizations provide unique insight into data that would otherwise be difficult to compile.** *Now, dashboards and scorecards using data has become common, and thanks to Dundas BI, we expect to continue to see improved quality, cost and schedule"*
>
> **Mark Cole** */ Sr. Financial Analyst, Yulista Holding, LLC*

Key Benefits

1 Yulista **(re)built their first internal dashboard – their HR Dashboard – in Dundas BI, over a span of a week** and began benefiting from it immediately. What once lived entirely within Excel and was updated manually at the start of each week, is now filterable to a high-degree, updates on a regular cadence, and is intuitive to all users. With the implementation of this dashboard, their human resource department has been granted granular access to valuable HR reporting and analytics and has acquired the ability to report on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) critical to their success. Now, Yulista is able to share more meaningful insights pertaining to their employees (such as average salary, employee map, turnover analysis, and more).

Furthermore, Yulista saves an immense amount of time each month on the actual creation of their HR Dashboard/production of HR reports, as they're now able to easily access them online and have them update automatically. They no longer fear that the data their users are consuming is obsolete. No longer do they worry users are wasting time preparing, analyzing and distributing data on a regular basis, just to simply update Excel reports, which by the time are ready for production, no longer hold any merit.

2 Yulista also attributes the use of Dundas BI to directly contributing to them **winning additional Government contracts by providing better employee data is proposals.** The Government (one of Yulista's largest customers) frequently requests proposals and is intent on contracting Yulista's employees if they're qualified to fill specific positions. The Government needs to know, prior to accepting the proposal, if the employees they're to hire are capable of completing the job and have a track record of successfully working on other projects/contracts. Using Dundas BI, Yulista was able to build reports indicating that they do, in fact, have employees who will meet each requirement. These reports are submitted as part of the proposal package to the Government. To further differentiate themselves and to maintain a greater competitive advantage, Yulista also grants the Government access to additional dashboards that display active project statuses.

Yulista also has internal dashboards which help them ensure contracts are running smoothly. They're able to **monitor KPIs critical to the success of these projects such as Labor Utilization,** whereby Yulista tracks whether or not employees are charging time correctly.

3 Lastly, Yulista used Dundas BI to build Budgeting Dashboards, which have **reduced the time it takes to create upcoming budgets from two (2) weeks to two (2) hours.** As these dashboards are used primarily by business users, they've been optimized to be as user friendly as possible, using Dundas BI's built-in functionality; this includes help overlays, collapsible fields, drill-downs, inter-dashboard navigation, and more.

Other benefits have included the creation of a Cloud Billing Dashboard, which provides insight into where they're spending money and why, enabling Yulista to justify their Cloud spend, and an Internal Overview Dashboard, which notifies its users of the status of each project and prompts them to take action when each requires attention. One such internal dashboard has dramatically changed the way overall company objectives are reported; transitioning Yulista from mandating quarterly updates via meetings, to consolidated reports that their executives can now access at their leisure.

> *"I am very pleased with Dundas BI. It offers an extremely versatile and scalable platform with customization and centralization of data across all of our subsidiaries"*
>
> **Ronald Husa** / *Director of Quality, Yulista Holding, LLC*

Final Statements

The stage was set. With data scattered across nine companies and no way for them to unlock the data insights they needed, it was time for Yulista Holding, LLC, to modernize their reporting structure and move beyond the confines of Excel. Since implementing Dundas BI, Yulista's been able to create a smarter organization by consolidating their data and delivering personal reporting and analytics experiences to all users. They've saved immeasurable time preparing reports, have generated additional revenue, and are better positioned to make fact-based, data-driven decisions.