

Case study: Sunderland City Council

Achieving high performance with Accenture Clone and Test



High performance. Delivered.

Sunderland is a city with a rapidly improving city center, set right on the mouth of the River Wear next to a beautiful coastline and surrounded by easily accessible countryside. It has a range of outstanding heritage, cultural and sporting attractions, including the Sunderland International Airshow, which has become one of the preferred events of its kind.

Sunderland City Council operates as a Payroll Bureau and provides payroll services to a number of organizations. Some of these external bodies also use HR/Payroll Services, Finance and Procurement Services.

Business challenge

Sunderland City Council implemented a SAP HCM solution in December 2006 which included migrating data from a payroll 'green screen' system to SAP ERP2004. The original implementation utilized data migration tools within SAP, transaction ZDMW, and uploading csv files. The creation of these csv files was highly complex.

At the point of go-live, Accenture recommended the implementation of Accenture Clone and Test. This software

proved invaluable in supporting the parallel runs required to achieve data integrity of payrolls.

How Accenture Helped

Using Accenture Clone and Test, the tolerances achieved were within 10p, which was exceptional, given that more than 20,000 records were migrated. The ability to clone full HCM data quickly from one production system to another system, for testing purposes, was greatly appreciated by the Sunderland City Council team.

Organizational structures and payroll data can be effortlessly cloned from the production system to the Development and User Acceptance Testing (UAT) systems. This is vital for unit testing, user acceptance testing and error resolution.

Accenture Clone and Test is also essential during patching maintenance. Full payrolls can be cloned into the UAT system and parallel run comparisons undertaken against production payroll results. Flat run comparisons are an excellent first test, using the same data; these comparisons accurately check gross, net and P35 figures and

highlight any immediate area for resolution. This approach can also be applied for the creation of new payrolls.

“Moving forward, the Accenture Clone and Test software has proved itself to be an essential member of the team.”

Angela Harrison, SAP HCM Business Process Manager, Sunderland City Council.

High Performance Delivered

Sunderland City Council had two instances of SAP, one for HCM (HR and Payroll) and another for Financial Management Software (FMS). During 2010, a project was undertaken to deliver a consolidated single instance for FMS and HCM. The project was a total transfer of all configuration and data from HCM ERP2004 system onto the FMS ERP2005 system. The data migration tool of choice was Accenture Clone and Test enabling the actual migration of data from one system to the other to be undertaken within the three-day go-live window. The project was a success and was delivered with minimal disruption to the business.

Overall, Sunderland City Council is delighted with the support Accenture Clone and Test can bring in the maintenance of a SAP HCM system.

HCM made simple

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