CASE STUDY: OVO ENERGY

OVO energy

THE CHALLENGE

OVO Energy, the UK's largest independent energy technology company, was seeking a solution to help consolidate reporting and analytics within a single data warehouse for over 1 million energy customers across its different retail brands.

To date, OVO has installed more than 1 million individual smart meters in customer homes, producing over 25 billion readings and more than 5 terabytes of data. The company's goal was to have a single source of truth for all reporting and analytics, as the ability for the business intelligence team to report consistently on company performance across each of OVO's brands is critical to its continued success.

THE SOLUTION

The company selected Google BigQuery to warehouse its data, which will enable it to grow its infrastructure as data needs increase, as well as have access to Google's Big Data ecosystem as a whole. OVO receives more than 40 million smart meter readings a day, a number that will rise as the company continues to add customers.

Google BigQuery satisfied OVO's needs for data architecture, processing and storage. However, the company also needed a system for its business intelligence team to run unstructured queries, schedule jobs and build their reporting in an automated fashion. That's where the Potens suite of self-service query and workflow tools played a key role in OVO's transition to Google BigQuery. Potens provides both query tools and a workflow automator built on top of Google BigQuery that enabled OVO's business intelligence team to write automated scheduled jobs, while at same time offering the developers additional functionality for scripting, APIs and FTP calls.

THE RESULTS

The Potens user interface allowed OVO's SQL developers to get quickly up and running in Google's API, which enabled the team to immediately focus on the most important task at hand: integrating data from multiple systems into the single data warehouse in an automated and scheduled fashion. In addition, it enabled the business intelligence to determine the best times of day and sources for energy delivery to maximize availability at the most efficient cost.

Now, thanks to Potens and Google BigQuery, OVO has been able to easily integrate key commercial reporting for all their retail brands into their existing business intelligence dashboards. The company has been able to run nearly 300 Google BigQuery jobs per day, efficiently processing more than a terabyte of data via Potens' workflow automater every 24 hours.

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