

**INDUSTRY**

Financial Services

PROJECT

Assess the strategy and requirements of the credit ratings research business unit and create a recommendation for empowering more efficient research. Establish a centralized source for aggregated data using globally consistent criteria and support future product development. Enable the delivery of credit ratings research publications to end-users with the ability to access and analyze the data in a multitude of ways.

CLIENT PROFILE

Statistical and quantitative analysts within the world's foremost provider of independent credit ratings, indices, and investment research.

CHALLENGE

The challenge for this client was the distinct nature of work for this particular business unit - discover and research analytical data, from almost unlimited data sources, in a flexible manner. For years the business and IT groups had been challenged by a basic gap in understanding - the research group, by nature of research itself, had no formal, IT-traditional, data requirements. But it needed data. All the data, requested on an ad-hoc basis, that its researchers thought it needed to perform their jobs. NEOS was asked to review the business vision for research empowerment and recommend a solution. NEOS was also requested to demonstrate any forthcoming solution effectively.

SOLUTION

NEOS reviewed the research units current state operations and facilitated requirements for efficient use of information going forward. The business unit was provided with a set of proposed research processes and tools. IT was provided with a plan to create a loosely federated data architecture that supports unlimited sources of data referred to as a Sandbox. Data is associated through a federated keying architecture, derived through associative correlation logic. Data acquisition authority was shifted from IT to technical staff within the research unit with appropriate safeguards and parameter driven utilities.

The client was delivered:

- Current state business process assessment
- A design solution addressing business unit challenges and requirements
- An IT implementation roadmap
- A database design for the Sandbox architecture
- A correlation key architecture supporting loosely federated data
- Data governance processes and tools
- Data quality profiling planning & techniques
- A 4-phase project plan for incremental implementation of the full recommendation
- A populated pilot environment that successfully responds to two highly desirable research requests formerly dismissed as not cost effective to pursue

RESULT

The client was able to produce two new research products incorporating 4 new data sources and 6 existing data sources within the desired timeframe (6 weeks). The recommendation was presented internally and the potential for adoption of the information environment by other departments within the corporation (resulting in cost savings and extended information sharing) has been identified. The client is progressing with full implementation of the recommended solution.

