

Consulting Project Abstract

Domain Analysis and System Design for Product Information

Our Customer's Problem:

The customer has more than 200,000 different complicated electronic products that must be described accurately for internal and external communication. The data must be collected and published with a minimum number of errors. This involved consolidation of the existing explicit and ad hoc systems and associated business processes.

Why This Was A Problem:

The current solution was very burdensome. Data was collected in more than 10 places using more than 20 different systems. The lack of consistency in format and media caused large organizational overhead in cleansing the data and even with this process in place, an unacceptable number of errors still filtered through to publication. This led to inconsistency and inaccuracy that cost the organization millions of dollars every year.

Our Solution:

InferData helped develop a common domain model for the various departments and stakeholders ensuring a consistent view across the enterprise. The domain model ensured that the various views had been captured, and that requirements for the new systems and processes were based on the underlying business goals. The model was created with a combination of standard object-oriented description languages (UML), and the application of formal methods. InferData also provided consulting to facilitate and capture the new business processes based on the new IT solution.

Results:

The customer now owns a domain model that integrates all their information sources together. This domain model has proven to be stable, and very useful not only for the customer but for various standardization efforts in the field (e.g., ECIX 2, RosettaNet PIP 2A9, 2A10, 2A11). This domain model has been the foundation for a new generation

of systems that are emerging to solve the product information problem for the customer.