
Sentences™ Case Study

Man Investments Buys Sentences Futures

Man Investments, Man Group's Asset Management division, is a world leader in the fast-growing field of alternative investment products and solutions, where it has a strong market presence.

Man Group plc is a leading global provider of alternative investment products and solutions, as well as one of the world's largest futures brokers. The Group employs over 1,900 people in 15 countries, and is a constituent of the London Stock Exchange FTSE 100 Index.

Business Continuity

The investment industry is largely dependent upon complex processes and technologies, and Man understood that preparedness would be a critical factor in maintaining business continuity in an emergency. A partial or total loss of facilities would mean lost revenue for both Man and their clients. A solution was needed proportionate to the risk. The advent of 9/11 resulted in a reassessment of Man Investments' business continuity provision and the decision was made to extend the already proven approach, using near real-time replication, for Investment Management and Trading to the other business units.

Knowing which processes are needed, where the input comes from, the pre-requisites for each business process and what inter-relationships exist between business functions is a complex and ever-changing task. Man's Business Continuity Database (BCD) supports the planning of their Disaster Recovery (DR) programme and enables the business departments to easily keep this information current. Disaster Recovery requirements can now be quickly assessed and appropriate remedial action planned.

Man's technical specialists evaluated the capabilities of the Associative Model of Data, comparing and contrasting Sentences with technologies already in use at Man. Dr. Tim Hoggard (Chief IS Officer) says "Even though we had alternative tools at our disposal, Sentences has delivered a return on our investment by enabling us to implement this project in a timeframe that we could not otherwise have achieved."

The major output from the system is the DR, which prioritises the processes that must be carried out from any selected point in time. This report enables the DR

implementation team to identify, for example, dependencies between departments and processes. In the event of a disaster, this report acts as a valuable supplement to the documented procedures helping the team to focus on the key tasks.

The system also provides the Staff Impact Report, which provides information on the business processes in which a selected staff member participates. This is useful not only for DR purposes, but also provides valuable information for both the recruitment process and risk analysis.

In addition, the Business Area Process report provides a single point of reference for all the processes that each Business manager owns. While this information is obviously required input for the DR plan, it also provides valuable input for highlighting possible improvements to the process flow, at both the business area and overall company level.

Gary Whiting, DR Project Manager says "The use of Sentences was justifiable in our business case, as an alternative relational database system with a bespoke front end was likely to be more expensive and more complex than the proposed Sentences solution."

The BCD system was developed in just 20 days and is now in live operation. It has been well accepted by the business users as Gary Whiting confirms, "Most importantly, users have had little or no difficulty with getting familiar with the system, which is good news".
