HEALTH SERVICE

Rapid Implementation Of Data Obfuscation

ids
Leaders in data certainty

Health Service

Rapid Implementation of Data Obfuscation

Learn how IDS automated data obfuscation for a Health Service's digital transformation program, eliminating risk and significantly reducing the cost of delivering test data at scale

Digital transformation within the public sector is perpetually challenging – especially when the data is as highly sensitive as that held within the National Health Service. Confidential and sensitive data has to be obfuscated at scale, to allow new systems to be robustly tested. And the whole process needs to be completed at speed. The problem, however, is that manual obfuscation is not only time-consuming and expensive, but prone to human error.

It can cause whole digital transformation projects to grind to a resounding halt.

Health Sector Digital Transformation

The NHS' central system supporting primary care works with Capita to transform one of its backbone internal applications. However, the challenges of obfuscation were amplified by a dispersed testing team – so manual obfuscation of testing was simply never going to work.

The manual obfuscation process in place was inconsistent and caused a bottleneck when new production data was made available to the test team. The project was running significantly behind schedule, and the test team's approach had, therefore, become a risk to the project.

Delivering Test Data in Minutes – Not Days

Large volumes of representative data were required to satisfy the testing requirements of a large digital transformation program. With test team members located in various areas of the world, access to representative data for testing purposes was proving an impossible challenge.

The test team were struggling to keep pace with the delivery of new and updated systems and to provide the required volume of obfuscated test data to satisfy testing needs with each new data drop.

When IDS arrived, the existing team had an overhead of 20-30 man days to carry out the obfuscation process manually. This was therefore, not only prone to error, but expensive and unsustainable.

IDS was tasked with implementing a mechanism to rapidly obfuscate production data to ensure that all sensitive data was adequately replaced, with no route back to its original state.

> Testing was dependant on having obfuscated production data, representative of the entire data set, to support testing without breaching any regulatory guidelines, which would have put Capita, the program, and each of the program partners, at risk.

Mission-Critical Data Solution Offers Certainty to The Project

Given the critical nature of the data being shared with the program, a solution was required to mitigate the inherent risk associated with handling sensitive and critical data in large volumes.

The requirement from the program was for a highly repeatable and rapid solution which would deliver the required obfuscated test data in minutes instead of days.

A decision was made to implement iData, the market-leading data transformation engine, centrally, so that the team had access to iData's obfuscation capabilities on demand.

IDS implemented iData transforms and appropriate functions such as obfuscation, masking and randomizing, amongst many other suitable solutions. This helped build the required capability to consistently and efficiently provide representative and protected test data for each cycle of testing.

Faced with the increasing cost and complexity of their manual obfuscation approach, the program benefitted from IDS's specialist iData capabilities. To deliver a leaner, more cost-effective process.

Testing was completed on time, with a significant improvement in quality and coverage, and the test team were freed up to work on other mission-critical tasks.

iData: proven to radically reduce test preparation times

With 7 hours of scripting the transforms, iData generated the following outputs:

88,000 rows of representative data: **30 minutes**

44,000,000 rows of representative data: **6 hours**

70% of testing effort is made up of test preparation and 30% of the test preparation time is consumed by preparing test data.

IDS: Building Efficiency Into Managing Test Data

As market leaders in data migration transformation assurance, IDS understand the pain associated with managing test data as part of the testing process.

Based on a huge bank of case studies and use cases, IDS is able to de-risk the delivery of data obfuscation for complex and large-scale data testing and migration projects.

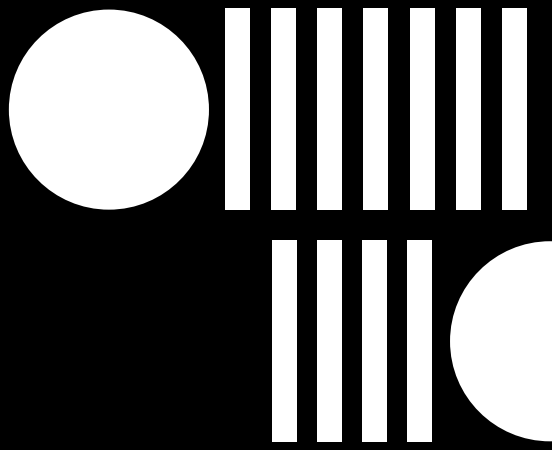
It is through this experience, that IDS developed iData to be the ultimate data transformation engine to automate the process of either obfuscating production data or generating synthetic data.

iData uses an automation process to generate template scripts that can be easily edited to drive the focus of each obfuscation transform, making the process extremely quick to configure and highly repeatable for execution.

Eliminating The Test Data Preparation Bottleneck, Cutting Costs, Increasing Coverage & Quality

- → iData **automates data obfuscation,** reducing costs and times by up to 70%
- → iData enables any program to obfuscate **huge volumes of data** rapidly
- → iData enables the **synthesization** of significant data volumes
- → iData significantly **reduces test preparation times**
- → iData provided a **robust and repeatable solution** for managing test data
- → iData can be **fully integrated** into any automated test solution, delivering advanced project savings
- → iData's obfuscation solution offers a **considerable saving** in staff utilization
- → iData **frees up skilled resources** to focus on exploratory testing or other areas of concern
- → iData drives up the quality of testing, as the possibility of **human oversight is eliminated.**

When data lies at the heart of your organization, you need data certainty. IDS's unique methodology brings together data testing and data quality assurance, to assure 100% of the data, through 100% of the journey, 100% of the time.



To find out more, discuss your data needs with an IDS data certainty specialist here:

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