

CASE STUDY

## Building the Foundation for Becoming a Data-Driven Institution

**CLIENT:** University  
**PROJECT:** Data Architecture Practice  
& Data Warehouse Planning

### CHALLENGE

- Data assets siloed in multiple administration systems with varying definitions, quality and usage, and limited sharing.
- Challenges with the accuracy, reliability, and timeliness of management reporting.
- Limited information for senior management decision making.
- High cost of integrating new systems.
- The organization did not have a data architect resource or expertise in the area.

### SOLUTION

- **Collaboration** – with the client's Planning & Governance team and mentoring the newly appointed Data Architect.
- **Strategy and design** – to formalize Data Architecture practices tailored for the University's needs.
- **Learning and development plan** - to expand the Data Architect's knowledge and skills.
- **Business case** - for phase I of an Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW) to improve management reporting and decision making and reduce future integration costs.
- **Roadmap** - of data architecture activities and projects to build out foundational and enabling capabilities and iteratively expand reporting and analytical capacity.

### RESULTS

- Capability to develop data strategy and support initiative planning, ongoing data governance & management, project planning, delivery & operations.
- Scope, schedule and budget for phase I of the Enterprise Data Warehouse was formally approved through the client's rigorous IT Governance investment review process.



## **ABOUT**

The University is the region's largest and only research-intensive university. IT Planning & Governance ensures IT initiatives and projects align with and serve as an extension to University strategies and objectives. At the start of their journey towards becoming a data-driven institution, Data Architecture practices needed to be formalized.

## **CONSULTATIVE APPROACH**

A Senior Consultant from Resolute Technology Solutions advised and collaborated with the client's Planning & Governance team in key areas of data architecture, data governance and data warehousing. The consultant led the creation of a strategy and design and outlined a learning and development plan. These deliverables defined the Data Architecture practice's purpose, goals, objectives, services, roles, skills and development approach, processes, data repositories and tools.

The team defined high-level scope and business case for phase one of an Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW) to address high priority reporting and analytics needs within Finance and Human Resources. They also planned a roadmap of data architecture activities and projects including defining the data strategy, designing and establishing data governance, integration strategy and phased roll-out of Student and Donor Relations analytics.

## **A SOLID FOUNDATION**

With formal Data Architecture practices in place, the University has a solid foundation on which to continue building out reporting and analytical capacity towards becoming a data-driven institution.