Made in the Shade Migrations with Vyapin's XPlica

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Client Industry:

Natural Gas Distribution

Products Used:

Vyapin's XPlica for SharePoint

XPlica

Microsoft SharePoint:
http://office.microsoft.com/sharepoint

SharePoint

Environment:

Migration of five SharePoint 2007 Servers and Project Server to two SharePoint 2013 farms. Approximately 20 GB of data involved in the migration.

In Canada where temperatures can drop as low as -33 degrees Celsius (-27.4 F) and soar as high as +31 degrees Celsius (87.8 F), customers rely on their energy companies for heating and cooling comfort. Energy company staff, in turn, rely on easy, accurate access to information to get the job done.

When the heat was on to migrate to a new SharePoint environment using only limited resources, the team at one natural gas distribution company looked to Vyapin and XPlica for assistance. The result: an easy migration that was made in the shade.

About the Client

Approximately 2000 employees in both field and office-based roles at a natural gas distribution company need access to information on policies, procedures, and projects in order to service customers safely and effectively. To make that happen, the company's Information Technology team is on point to find collaboration and document management solutions that can keep up with the needs of its staff and customers.

The Business Challenge

In this case, the Information Technology team manages SharePoint Server farms that store documents such as proposals, meeting minutes, and "how-to" procedures as well as project information for IT and Operational Project Management Offices.

While planning a SharePoint migration, the team faced a strategic decision on the way from SharePoint 2007 to SharePoint 2010 when they realized that migrating directly to 2013 was just as easy. They decided to bypass SharePoint 2010 in an effort to save time and reduce the risk of disruption to the business. Another factor in the decision was to take advantage of improvements in the upgrade experience available only with a move to the 2013 version.

In planning the move to SharePoint 2013, Microsoft's recommended best practices were to be used wherever possible which in this case

Challenge:

- Improve the user experience
- Speed of migration
- Reduce the effort of post-migration clean up
- Manage the migration with limited resources

Solution:

Vyapin's Xplica for SharePoint

XPlica supports migration of site collections, webs, libraries, lists, documents, document properties, list items (including file attachments) and associated metadata, while retaining folder hierarchy, version history and user permissions to the desired target SharePoint server.

Benefits of Using XPlica:

- Quick & easy to test
- Agile and flexible to use
- Facilitated Planning
- Cost Effective

meant going with the "database attach" method of migration. While that method did produce some of the desired results, the IT team quickly realized that inconsistencies were also migrated to the new environment and that there would be many hours of post-migration clean up required. With limited resources, time, and money, the team needed to change the plan. They began the search for a solution that would enable them to deliver a top-notch user experience in an efficient and cost effective way.

Solution: Vyapin's XPlica for SharePoint

Vyapin's XPlica for SharePoint is a powerful tool that exports SharePoint libraries, folders, documents, version histories, and metadata to a new, desired location. It was exactly what this customer needed to help them reduce the hours that might otherwise be required to fix the inevitable issues that come up during any migration.

From Skeptic to Fan
Initially, the gas company's IT team was not in favour of add-on tools because it believed that these would introduce increased complexity. The team's view changed, however, when Vyapin's XPlica solution was discovered through a web search. After using the tool's free 30-day trial, the team was hooked. "Initially, it seemed to be an involved process but as we conducted tests and reviewed log files, we discovered that it was quite straightforward and easy to identify issues and get them resolved. The product is very flexible and addresses the gaps in the out-of-the-box migration method," said the customer.

Don't Sweat the Customization
Another of the IT team's concerns was whether XPlica would be able to handle the extensive SharePoint customizations that existed in the environment. To cover that off, other products were reviewed—but the search was over almost before it began. The customer explains, "We quickly came back to Vyapin and XPlica. The product does the best job, handled what we needed with customization and it's easy to use."

Light on Cost, Heavy on Support
The budget for the migration project did not include a big line item for tools. Fortunately, this was not a problem when it came to committing to purchase XPlica. "There's no doubt that Vyapin provides a cost effective solution. They hit it out of the park on that front," according to the customer who also added, "Another big differentiator is the Vyapin support. They are always listening and are highly responsive. The support is simply spectacular and that is immensely important in our planning and migration work."

Benefits

XPlica went the distance for this customer's migration and delivered the following benefits:

Planning Optimization

The use of XPlica made it easy for the IT team to plan out their migration. In fact, they estimated that they improved planning by 50% using XPlica. "Efficiency in planning is very important to us and XPlica gave us an advantage in estimating time and effort," said the customer.

Ease of Clean Up

Using XPlica saved an estimated 90% of the hours in the post-migration clean up. According to this customer's experience, "We moved most of our sites using the database attach method. XPlica, however, helped us easily address the residual issues in record time."

End User Experience

Access to the right information at the right time is the standard at this company. XPlica's ease of use, along with exceptional support provided by the Vyapin team, enabled the Information Technology team to deliver as promised. It made the migration as seamless as possible while enhancing the end user experience along the way.

Conclusion

When the heat was on to migrate data quickly and correctly, Vyapin's XPlica fueled the effort with its features, flexibility, and support. The company highlighted in this case study is delighted to report that its Information Technology team is forecasting an energy savings in future migration efforts thanks to XPlica.

"I certainly changed my view of the value of tools like Vyapin's in the migration process and am now a believer in augmenting the out-of-the-box methods.

XPlica comes with great support, is easy-to-use and cost effective. It's now our go to method for data migration."

Customer comment

about Vyapin's XPlica