



Entrust

Relies on ER/Studio® for documenting and modeling databases

Overview

Entrust provides identity-based security solutions for strong authentication, fraud detection, digital certificates, SSL and public key infrastructure (PKI) to more than 5,000 organizations spanning 60 countries. The company's identity-based approach offers affordability, expertise and service and is backed by over 125 patents, both granted and pending.

Entrust's leadership in the development of PKI was the catalyst for today's enterprise and consumer security architecture. Now, Entrust solutions help address the security challenges with a focus on cloud and mobile security, physical and logical access, citizen eID initiatives and certificate management.

Challenge

Business Architect Jason Soroko began to search for a data modeling tool suite that could provide reverse engineering and process documentation. "We needed a tool that could document and reverse engineer complex data structures," said Soroko. "Some of our legacy databases have little or no documentation, and without the right software, the effort to create database entity diagrams and other documentation would be way too time-consuming."

For Soroko, the diagrams were essential, because they would allow him to demonstrate the complexity of his team's efforts and secure the additional resources he needed. "We were unable to communicate the complexity of our projects to upper management, and that was impacting our ability to get the support and buy-in we needed to be successful," he said.

Soroko and his team evaluated several products, and selected ER/Studio based on its reverse engineering capabilities. "ER/Studio's strong reverse engineering and relationship diagramming capabilities were exactly what I needed, and the software's quality was backed by multiple online reviews and commentary."



CHALLENGES

- Optimize time and resources by eliminating manual tasks associated with data modeling and reverse engineering
 - Enhance collaboration among DBAs and developers to improve and speed up the development cycle
 - Effectively communicate resource needs and project complexity to upper management
 - Create standardized documentation for complex data structures
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APPLICATIONS

- Data modeling reverse engineering, process documentation

TOOLS USED

- ER/Studio Enterprise

Solution

ER/Studio is the fastest, easiest and most collaborative way for data modeling professionals to build and maintain enterprise-scale databases and data warehouses. Built-in facilities automate routine modeling tasks so users can analyze and optimize database and data warehouse designs faster than ever. With a server-side model management system and online portal, ER/Studio allows data professionals to easily share, document and publish data models and metadata to distributed teams, while enforcing standards in a shared team modeling environment.

ER/Studio promotes data reuse and collaboration in real time through effective enterprise model management and metadata publication capabilities. Additionally, ER/Studio enhances visibility and information quality across enterprise systems with round-trip engineering and complete database lifecycle support.

Using ER/Studio, Entrust's architects can diagnose and understand the impact of changes more effectively. ER/Studio's browser-based Portal provides self-service, web-based search and reporting for accessing and querying the ER/Studio Repository. Cross-model and Repository-wide data definition and object searches improve developers' understanding of metadata, object whereabouts and data usage.

With ER/Studio, Soroko can easily create concise database object documentation from physical and logical levels and pull in tables for reverse engineering. "We had to use a tool like Visio and do everything by hand before," he said. "We're talking about thousands of tables with subsequent relationships. Now ER/Studio automates everything." Soroko said that what could have taken him a minimum of six months to complete took about a week with ER/Studio. "The time-savings is impossible to quantify," he said.



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– Jason Soroko, Business Architect at Entrust

Results

Within a short period of time, Entrust was able to create complex documentation of legacy database systems using ER/Studio. “The consultant we hired to help with this task told me this was the best database entity relationship software he had ever worked with,” said Soroko. “The entire process from purchasing the software to implementing to utilizing it was a pleasure.” ER/Studio has helped Soroko’s team to improve and formalize process documentation, which has enabled his team to communicate the level of effort and complexity of DBA work to executive sponsors. Executive buy-in is critical for obtaining the funding and resources for complex IT projects.

“The diagrams produced using ER/Studio are powerful communication tools,” said Soroko. “Before ER/Studio, we were not able to effectively communicate the complexity of our projects.” With documentation from ER/Studio that’s all changed. “Now, documenting the physical and logical layers of the legacy systems is possible with a single tool,” he said. Soroko recalled a meeting during which a diagram generated by ER/Studio was placed on the conference table and became the focal point of the meeting. “Just the fact that the diagram existed enabled the entire team to make important decisions based on the proof of complexity of what we were trying to do. Now I can take an extremely complex concept, explain it with relative ease to upper management and get the support we need, while also demonstrating the value of our work.”

Soroko was equally impressed with the post-sales support. “I felt that if I ran into roadblocks, the ER/Studio folks would roll up their sleeves and make sure it worked,” he said. “But we didn’t need much help...the software is exceptionally well-written and robust, and for that alone, I’d recommend it.”

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– Jason Soroko, Business Architect at Entrust

RESULTS

- Simplified complex documentation of legacy database systems by automating many manual tasks
 - Streamlined data modeling by creating both the physical and logical layers of legacy systems using a single tool
 - Improved and formalized process documentation, allowing DBAs to effectively communicate the level of effort and complexity of their work to executive sponsors
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