



Companhia Siderúrgica Nacional Diminishes Processing Time and Decreases Storage Consumption with Solutions from Quest Software

Companhia Siderúrgica Nacional (CSN), one of the largest integrated steel companies in Latin America, needed a solution to help them reorganize their mission-critical application database without disrupting their SAP/Oracle environment. SAP is the company's backbone for every-thing concerning business applications. Running on an Oracle database, SAP performs the finance, billing, control, sales, purchasing, production planning and quality management roles, as well as an interface with the logistics system. In addition, SAP is in communication with the plant floor systems.

The Challenge

CSN's SAP system was impacted by a need for Oracle table space reorganization. Francisco José Ferreira, Technical Support manager at CSN, explains, "The larger the database supported by SAP, the more headaches we would get concerning the environmental performance and the use of the storage infrastructure." After several tests and extensive research, CSN selected Space Management with LiveReorg®, a component of Quest Central® for Oracle, to organize their Oracle database. "Other products that claim to reorganize the Oracle database would force me to bring the SAP system down for at least 20 hours. This is unacceptable. Quest's Space Management with LiveReorg has allowed me to perform database maintenance without having to bring down the SAP/Oracle system." Ferreira added, "If SAP stops, CSN also stops—I needed a database reorganizing solution that would ensure high availability of the application that organizes the company's businesses."

The Quest Solution

Space Management with LiveReorg, a component of Quest Central®, reorganizes your Oracle database without downtime to reclaim lost space and improve performance even in environments without maintenance windows. All reorganization methods are designed to help maintain SAP databases at optimal capacity and performance. Many SAP customers use Space Management with LiveReorg to reorganize their critical SAP tables without impacting production system availability.

Ferreira undertook detailed tests with multiple tools that could perform a reorganization and defragmentation of the Oracle databases running under SAP. After three months of experiments, he decided to adopt Quest Central for Oracle. The deployment of the solution was completed in record time. "In one month, the software was in operation across CSN and we were already obtaining the results we expected."

With Quest Central for Oracle, Ferreira has met all the goals he set for himself. The Quest operation did not negatively impact the performance of SAP/Oracle at all or force the server to be taken off-line. The SAP transaction processing time has been cut on average from 2.3 seconds to 1.5 seconds. And, in terms of storage usage, the Quest solution performed the "miracle of multiplication" concerning disk space. Ferreira noted, "Thanks to Quest Central for Oracle, we have achieved a space savings of 62GB in a single reorganized and defragmented Oracle table."

Ferreira remarks that meeting only one of the criteria used for choosing the reorganization solution - to keep the SAP/Oracle server on-line during the whole process—represents a noteworthy achievement. "According to our analysis, other reorganization software would demand that we bring the SAP database down during the process", said Ferreira. "Downtime during the database reorganization process could lead to many hours of machine inactivity, thus affecting CSN production". During this gap, there would be a disruption of the laminated steel production process.

Overview

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- Francisco José Ferreira,
Technical Support Manager,
CSN



Headquarters

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Services

Steel production, mining and infrastructure

Critical Needs

A solution to help reorganize mission-critical application database without disrupting the SAP/Oracle environment

Solution

Quest Central® for Oracle;
Space Management with LiveReorg®

Results

Diminished processing time and decreased storage consumption

This could cause CSN to lose sales, delay compliance timetables, etc. “Downtime is a critical issue because it is impossible to recover lost production time—there is no way to accelerate the process pace without taking the risk of lowering the quality of our product, which is completely unthinkable,” emphasized Ferreira.

The Bottom Line

With the help of Space Management with LiveReorg and Quest Central for Oracle, CSN has been able to reorganize their mission-critical application database without disrupting the SAP environment. In addition, processing time diminished and storage consumption decreased.

About Companhia Siderúrgica Nacional

Companhia Siderúrgica Nacional was founded on April 9, 1941, becoming operational on October 1, 1946 and was privatized in 1993. CSN is one of the largest and most competitive integrated steel companies in Latin America. With an annual production capacity of 5.8 million tons and around eight thousand employees, CSN is focused on steel production, mining and infrastructure. CSN supplies a number of business segments both in Brazil and overseas, with the Automobile, Civil Construction, Packaging, Home Appliances and OEM segments deserving special mention. To learn more about CSN, visit their Web site at www.csn.com.br.

About Quest Software, Inc.

Quest Software, Inc. delivers innovative products that help organizations get more performance and productivity from their applications, databases and Windows infrastructure. Through a deep expertise in IT operations and a continued focus on what works best, Quest helps more than 18,000 customers worldwide meet higher expectations for enterprise IT. Quest Software can be found in offices around the globe and at www.quest.com