OLAV

AN INDUSTRY-UNIQUE APPROACH TO ENTERPRISE SYSTEM DATA CONVERSIONS

CONVERTING LEGACY DATA SYSTEMS DEMANDS ERROR-FREE DATABASE FOUNDATIONS:
INTRODUCING OLAV'S INDUSTRY-UNIQUE FULL EARLY DATA LOAD (FEDL) METHODOLOGY

"83% of data migration projects either fail or exceed their budgets and schedules." – Gartner

INTRODUCTION

With today's increasingly sophisticated enterprise systems, a formal and proven legacy system data conversion methodology is critical to the success of implementation projects.

This is especially true with the infusion of unstructured Big Data. While intended to enhance corporations' analytical and business intelligence capabilities, 50-80% of the work of data scientists recruited to help manage Big Data initiatives is what this New York Times article called "janitor work" in cleaning up poor quality data for analysis.

In this context, the challenges of efficient data conversion and implementation take on far greater importance in assuring:

• Quality data

• Data integrity

• The systems and processes to assure its proper and authorized use.

For enterprises needing to convert from legacy database systems to contemporary enterprise systems, the quality and reliability of that conversion process has never had greater importance. It is the foundation for a robust and reliable system capable of storing, processing, analyzing, and reporting enterprise data.

FLAWS WITH TRADITIONAL APPROACH

The default for many enterprises is to retain one of the large consulting firms to design and manage their data conversions. Because these firms deal mainly with system implementations and are not data conversion specialists, their personnel have little data conversion experience.

This results in a repetitive, time-consuming, and error-prone process leading to a final pre-production full data load only in the late stages of the project. This trial-and-error approach is why so many data conversion projects fail to be completed on time, on budget and with quality results.

Or they retain an Enterprise System vendor expecting a full-service solution, when in most cases data cleansing, standardization, and consolidation are not included – which is why the majority of enterprises are disappointed with their Enterprise System implementations.

THE OLAV DIFFERENCE: *FULL EARLY DATA LOAD*

OLAV & Co., Inc. (OLAV) assigns only senior consultants with decades of cross-functional experience with OLAV across multiple enterprise system modules (HR, finance, supply chain, etc.) to apply OLAV's industry-unique Full Early Data Load (FEDL) methodology that's been perfected over the past 25 years.

Because our seasoned conversion specialists better understand the context in which the data is being applied, fewer errors occur and less time is required of client personnel. This lean approach to staffing is why OLAV is able to complete projects on-time and under-budget with only three FTEs where others assign twelve or more FTEs.

Clients deal with fewer people, which reduces communication errors with more bloated conversion teams that can delay implementations, lower quality, and raise both costs and stress. Unlike industry norms, OLAV's first loads are full initial database conversions. These initial loads are over 90% correct compared to final production loads, with minimal client assistance.

OLAV then prepares a full specification that is reviewed with the fully-loaded system and approved by the client. All project teams significantly benefit from using their fully-loaded system: rework is minimized, the majority of problems are found and corrected prior to production, and the resulting production system is of the highest quality.

The approach used by other consultants-vendors starts with small vendor-supplied test data. The consultant-vendor then conducts review sessions with client subject matter experts (SMEs) that produces the initial specification for data conversion.

THE MAIN PROBLEMS WITH THIS APPROACH ARE:

1) The excessive time required by the client SMEs to produce the initial specification;

2) Using test data makes it very difficult for the SMEs to understand the system; and

3) The errors in the produced specification require significant rework later on to correct.
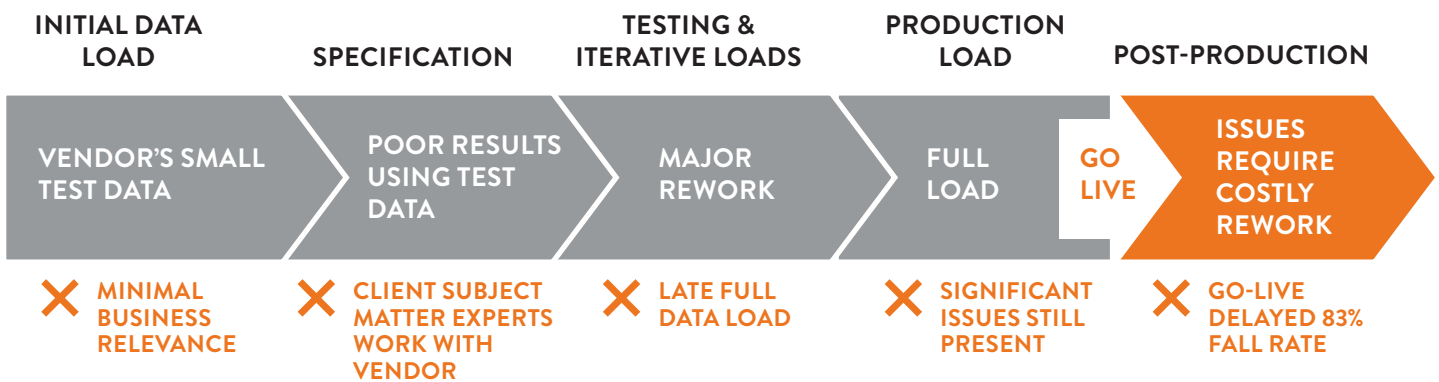
Training of relevant employees can also begin earlier in the conversion process with a full data load to ensure an event-free go-live and easier post-production maintenance. More frequent and robust system testing to higher degrees of certainty is also possible.

The result is not only a more seamless and error-free conversion, but a faster and more cost-effective one as well. Projects that others assign a dozen or more FTE consultants to are routinely managed by OLAV with three FTEs. This is why clients - including many Fortune 500 companies - marvel at OLAV's ability to deliver such superior results at such a lower total cost.

THE OLAV INDUSTRY-UNIQUE LEAN APPROACH CAN MINIMIZE PROJECT DURATION, MINIMIZE TOTAL COST, AND PRODUCE HIGH QUALITY RESULTS. THERE ARE FEW TO ZERO POST PRODUCTION ISSUES.
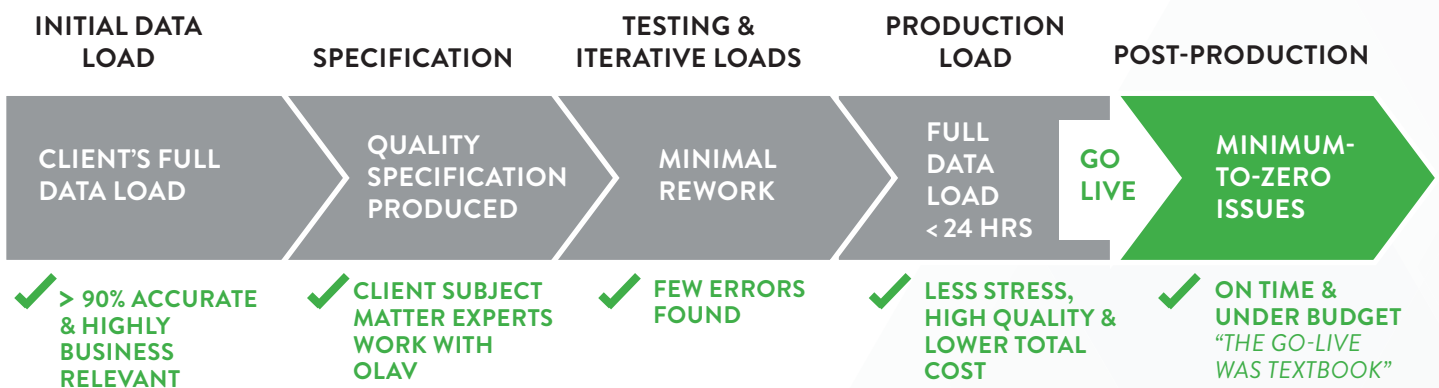
TYPICAL DATA CONVERSIONS
Junior consultants rely on vendor-supplied test data

INITIAL DATA LOAD	SPECIFICATION	TESTING & ITERATIVE LOADS	PRODUCTION LOAD		POST-PRODUCTION
VENDOR'S SMALL TEST DATA	POOR RESULTS USING TEST DATA	MAJOR REWORK	FULL LOAD	GO LIVE	ISSUES REQUIRE COSTLY REWORK
✘ MINIMAL BUSINESS RELEVANCE	✘ CLIENT SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS WORK WITH VENDOR	✘ LATE FULL DATA LOAD	✘ SIGNIFICANT ISSUES STILL PRESENT		✘ GO-LIVE DELAYED 83% FALL RATE

OLAV'S INDUSTRY-UNIQUE DATA CONVERSIONS
Senior consultants rely on decades of multidisciplinary experience

INITIAL DATA LOAD	SPECIFICATION	TESTING & ITERATIVE LOADS	PRODUCTION LOAD		POST-PRODUCTION
CLIENT'S FULL DATA LOAD	QUALITY SPECIFICATION PRODUCED	MINIMAL REWORK	FULL DATA LOAD < 24 HRS	GO LIVE	MINIMUM-TO-ZERO ISSUES
✔ > 90% ACCURATE & HIGHLY BUSINESS RELEVANT	✔ CLIENT SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS WORK WITH OLAV	✔ FEW ERRORS FOUND	✔ LESS STRESS, HIGH QUALITY & LOWER TOTAL COST		✔ ON TIME & UNDER BUDGET *"THE GO-LIVE WAS TEXTBOOK"*

FULL EARLY DATA LOAD: DONE RIGHT THE FIRST TIME FOR MINIMAL REWORK

WHAT CLIENTS SAY ABOUT WORKING WITH OLAV'S TEAM:

"All projects were completed on schedule and under budget."

"The Go-Live was textbook. It was a really good day."

"They provided exactly what we needed in a very accurate and timely manner."

"Very cost-effective...multi-disciplinary capabilities."

"OLAV...may have been the best project decision we have ever made."

"OLAV's staff and my staff worked seamlessly together during these major projects."

"A class act and some of the best people I have ever worked with."

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND AND SERVICES

OLAV is a full-service IT consultancy serving Fortune 500 and smaller companies with services ranging from mass data modifications (cleansing, standardization, consolidation, loading), testing, documentation, training, project management, and software development.

OLAV was founded in 1990 to provide specialty support services for Enterprise Systems. These now include PeopleSoft™, SAP™, Maximo™, Asset Suite/PassPort™ and others.

Knowledge of, and experience with, a majority of the leading Enterprise Systems is a cost-saving advantage when setting up new systems in an organization that has used an older Enterprise System or a series of smaller legacy systems to support its work.

Additional OLAV services can be viewed in detail at **http://www.olav.com.**

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