

Abel Solutions Improves Data Visibility and Provides Self-Service Reporting for Applied Technical Services

When delivering on hundreds of jobs each month, having access to operational data is paramount to success. Applied Technical Services (ATS) needed a new solution for providing business insights to their department managers so they turned to Abel Solutions to maximize their investment in the cloud.



A STRESSED SYSTEM

As a provider of non-destructive testing across 29 locations in the United States, ATS had mountains of data and a miserable time making any use of it. ATS department managers needed data for their decision-making processes but reports had to be manually generated by ATS' IT department.

The amount of time ATS' IT Department spent performing data inquiries, creating custom reports, and then distributing them pulled efforts from other IT priorities. Furthermore, the data provided was often out-of-date and did not paint a complete enough picture to meet managers' needs. High licensing fees also presented a problem, as it was too costly for managers to gain access to pull accounting data directly.

The final straw came with the phasing out of the platform upon which their current reports were built. Their existing reports consequently needed to be converted to newer technology or be lost forever. This instance of forced evolution proved a perfect opportunity for Abel Solutions to make improvements.

CHALLENGE

- Design and develop a secure cloud-based reporting solution providing access to multiple data sources with self-service options for client department managers and executives.

SOLUTION

- Deploy Microsoft 365 solution leveraging Power BI to grant secured access to operation data while providing users with necessary features to be self-sufficient.

RESULT

- Department Manager and Executives have near real-time access to operations data - that they can manipulate and message via Power BI - to make informed decisions. Client's IT can focus on IT priorities instead of producing ad hoc reports.



MAXIMIZING THE CLOUD

Leveraging ATS' existing Microsoft 365 environment, Abel Solutions designed a "single source" solution to satisfy all departments' reporting requirements. Microsoft 365 cloud storage capabilities, as well as its ability to configure groups of authenticated users and manage access to data based on their membership, further cemented its usefulness as a basis for their new system. Better analytics and more insights would allow their business leaders to make stronger, more nuanced decisions.

Microsoft Power BI dashboards would quickly display up-to-date information that ATS managers can use to understand their data. Using Power BI as their data visualization tool further allows them to slice and dice the models to present the most useful information, asking questions of their data to discover new insights, and digging into the numbers underpinning the models to view fine details. Migrating their systems to Microsoft 365 made deployment quick and easy, as all the structure for securing the environment, managing user access, and enabling collaborative work existed in their Microsoft 365 tenant.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The result of our solution was not just a system that improved their reporting efficiency, but one that was easy to maintain as well. Because it leveraged existing Microsoft 365 security, ATS' IT only had to authenticate new users and assign them to groups according to their positions. These cloud-hosted reports autonomously updated every night, meaning that the information contained within was always up to date.

Overall, Abel Solutions was able to modernize the client's reporting processes with a little help from Power BI. This powerful data visualization tool served as a foundation upon which we built a scalable solution that may one day encompass a range of metrics, including employee utilization rates, laboratory statistics, and any other variety of data applicable to their business model. ATS is now maximizing their investment in the cloud.

About Applied Technical Services

Applied Technical Services, Inc. (ATS) is a premier provider of high-quality consulting engineering, testing, and inspection services. Since our founding in 1967, ATS has established an excellent reputation with business, industry, and the legal profession. Notably, ATS is known for successfully uncovering facts in metallurgy, materials testing, chemical analysis, non-destructive testing, calibrations, fires and explosions. ATS can take a closer look for you to help find the technical answers and solutions you need. For more information visit www.atslab.com.

About Abel Solutions

For over 25 years, Abel Solutions has focused on helping our customers develop and deploy solutions that deliver Business Excellence in terms of profitability, productivity, and competitive leadership. We believe that the most effective solutions are those that leverage and combine a customer's current strengths and assets with new people, processes, and technology capabilities to accomplish business goals. Our consultants have the knowledge, experience, and tools to deliver a portfolio of services including business strategy, artificial intelligence solutions, advanced process automation, as well as managed cloud and IT services. For more information visit www.abelsolutions.com.

