



Implementing Meter Data Management (MDM) solution as part of smart grid program

Client

Leading Electric Utility company.

Challenge

As is the case with a number of utilities across the world, our client is in the middle of a significant technological transformation. So far billing has been based on one read a month. Post implementation of smart meters, they could be dealing with as many as 24 to 96 reads per measure per day.

Managing all this data calls for a radically different solution, where both the database system as well as communications infrastructure have to be tuned differently. A key driver for technological change is the need to influence customer energy consumption behavior.

Our client will be installing smart meters over the next two years. First the MDM and Billing systems will get deployed, which will lay the groundwork for the smart meters to follow. Installing smart meters before the MDM is put in place could result in the meters not working effectively. Having the MDM precede smart meter deployment provides a greater degree of control over the overall initiative.

Currently they have in place commercial meters that come with all smart meter features with the exception of the service switch. For these commercial customers, they have been able to institute complex tariffs. When smart meters are rolled in, complex tariffs will also move into the residential space.

Marlabs Solution

Marlabs is implementing Oracle MDM software which has all the tools to manage interval data and SOA. However extensive configuration and/or customization is required to be made, based on a proprietary rules engine. Included in project scope is interfacing with homegrown field order and billing systems; these were off-the-shelf products that were subsequently adapted. Also in scope is compliance with PUC requirements.

At the design phase, we will be coordinating with the client's programmers for integration with field order and billing. Interfacing with a third party system requires communication in the context of its inherent standards and calls for additional customization. During development, we will incorporate new functionality for validation, record keeping, current state tracking, and meter validation. The goal is to achieve a robust platform for our client's transition to the Smart Grid.

Benefits

- Increases accuracy of billing
- Institutes complex tariffs and rate structures
- Implements critical peak pricing
- Provides data repository for extensive analysis
- Enables efficient regulatory compliance
- Integrates end to end business processes

Technologies

- Oracle MDM version 1.6
- ASP
- Java
- SQL Server

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