

Rev-Trac fuels Textron's SAP business transformation

Company snapshot

Worth \$14.2 billion

Fortune 500 ranking 208

Operating in 25 Countries

HQ Rhode Island, USA

Industries include Aerospace and defense, specialized vehicles, turf care, fuel systems

Brands include Bell, Cessna, Beechcraft, E-Z-Go



TEXTRON

Rev-Trac provided the level of control, compliance and transparency Textron required to modify its existing BI systems to meet regulatory requirements and evolving market needs. The solution's capabilities enabled Textron to do everything "by the book", with full documentation of processes and enforced approvals for all changes.

Automation smooths the BI systems consolidation

Textron knew close management and a carefully phased system evolution would be crucial for success. Disruption had to be minimized or eliminated despite the extensive changes planned.

"[Rev-Trac] eliminates chasing people for signatures and we always have visibility and accountability."

Bhaskar Ramachandran, Manager, SAP Technology, Textron Global SAP CoE

Implementing Rev-Trac early allowed Textron to avoid common problems, including changing procedures without documentation or proper authorizations. So, changes did not have to be reverse-analyzed or re-engineered later, after the trail went cold.

Rev-Trac became indispensable to the global giant in its implementation of SAP systems. In automating its SAP change management, Textron simplified its systems evolution. As a result, both the number of Rev-Trac users and the amount of data maintained in Rev-Trac supported systems grew beyond original projections.

→ In 2004, Textron decided to standardize its global subsidiaries onto an SAP business information solution. The challenge was significant. Integrating completely independent brands with well-established internal processes and existing legacy systems required a great deal of visibility and accountability.

Textron does business in a number of highly regulated sectors, further complicating the consolidation of its BI systems. As such, it is subject to stringent inspections to ensure regulatory compliance and adherence to Sarbanes-Oxley reporting requirements in the US.

To meet the challenge, Textron needed an SAP change control solution that could manage the complex project with flexibility, power, responsiveness and reliability.

The multi-industry global giant selected Revelation Software Concepts' (RSC), Rev-Trac – SAP change control automation software – after a rigorous review of competing technologies.

Fast track compliance with consistent change processes

The process visibility and control Rev-Trac provided helped Textron to meet its SAP transformation goals and establish more effective audit records. Greater transparency and tighter controls means the business always know what SAP changes are made and who has approved them.

Todd Kackley, PMO Manager, Textron said: “We’ve gone through a number of audits since we started with Rev-Trac and we come away clean every time.”

“We have huge projects being implemented – one has been going on for over two years with over 4,000 transports – but we can control all changes in our objects. We turn on tracking and know who’s working on primary versus secondary landscapes. We turn on locking and overwrites never happen, dependencies are never misplaced.

“Auditors respect our ability to run histories and reports and pull them up at any time. They love it that we can show compliance and prove visibility, that it’s a built in part of our regular processes,” he said.

Accelerate business outcomes with heightened visibility

Enhanced visibility, more efficient change SAP change management and a fast track to compliance are not the only benefits of implementing Rev-Trac.

Other advantages include:

- The software is written in ABAP/4, so it doesn’t introduce added layers or API complexities. It functions as an integrated part of the SAP solution
- Enforces a set of consistent change processes across all business units regardless of location and industry

- Eliminates the need and the temptation to make undocumented SAP changes on the fly

Utilizing Rev-Trac allows all levels of management to gain better insight into SAP projects to enhance business outcomes.

Bhaskar Ramachandran, manager, SAP technology, Textron Global SAP CoE, said: “Finance likes hard numbers. We can say it would take several full-time people just to manage change records inside our SAP landscapes without Rev-Trac. They see that we manage the whole system, including change records, with minimal staff now. That gives them a number they can rely on,” he said.

Importantly, for a company that does business in highly regulated environments Rev-Trac maintained a positive record that managers can access immediately, eliminating a lot of risk.

“Rev-Trac tracks and enforces approvals throughout the process, so there’s never any confusion,” said Ramachandran. “It eliminates chasing after people for signatures and we always have visibility and accountability.”

Business Results-

- Streamlined operations and administered tighter controls
- Reduction in audit time and effort
- More efficient change management processes to meet business demands
- Confidently meet stringent compliance requirements with consistent processes



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