

Technology evaluation for cloud data and analytics platform

Luminor Bank AS is the third-largest provider of financial services in the Baltics, with approximately one million clients, 2,500 employees, and a market share of 16.8% in deposits and 19.5% in lending (as of Q3 2019).

Luminor

Competencies & methodologies used

- Data Lake
- DWH
- Data integration toolsets
- Metadata management
- Change data capture (CDC)
- Scheduling and workflow toolsets
- Scrum

Finding an ideal cloud data and analytics stack

Luminor was faced with several challenges in choosing the right data warehouse platform for years to come: a great number of modern cloud technologies on the market, a target date set in stone, and internal resources already engaged for the next nine months. They wanted to be as confident as possible before making a choice, without becoming stuck in an endless customization of the chosen technologies to fit their business needs, requiring unaccounted for expenses down the line, and making migration to something more suitable extremely difficult. The choice had to be made before long-term investment decisions were made in the bank.

Approaching the challenges

Luminor involved Proekspert to provide a team and evaluate a variety of cloud data and analytics technology stacks within Luminor's limited timeframe. Together, business- and architectural use-case scenarios were implemented, a scoring matrix devised, and non-functional requirements assessed.

What makes finding an ideal technology stack tricky, is that at a glance, competing platforms check out. However, there are nuances. There is the look and feel. There is also maintenance. If in the hands of a competent team one platform can be up and running in two hours and another will not be up in two weeks, then there is a considerable maintenance overhead looming in the background.

What also needs to be taken into consideration and evaluation, is how the vendors of competing platforms handle cooperation. In today's business, there is no opportunity to wait for a couple of months each time there is a problem.

Altogether, over 300 scenarios were defined for Luminor and run on all competing platforms, with various technology combinations evaluated one by one for suitability in the Luminor business context. If there was no positive result in 2 weeks, the platform failed in that specific requirement. The results were presented in bi-weekly demos and added to an assessment report.

Confidence in the choice ahead

The activities that were conducted throughout the project, moreover the findings and conclusions, became an important part in Luminor's choice of a data warehouse partner. Following the co-operation, Luminor's stakeholders could make a choice based on total cost of ownership and the way of working of the potential partner, instead of just comparing checklists, all well in advance for investment decision making.

"With data it's simple. When data is available and correct, then nobody notices that it even exists. As soon as something goes wrong with data, it shows up everywhere, in every keyhole in every level of the company. I'm thankful for the Proekspert team's flexibility and openness to find solutions. Even under difficult conditions they still kept up a positive vibe."

Helen Michaels
Head of BI
Development,
Luminor Bank AS

