

SEGULA Technologies optimizes its enterprise IT investment using Altair's software asset optimization solution



Key Highlights

Industry

Engineering Service Provider

Challenge

Need to handle and monitor a very large variety of commercial software licenses and to optimize the software usage.

Altair Solution

License monitoring delivering information about the actual scope of software usage with Altair's SAO solution, improving decisions on software renewal, and acquisition.

Benefits

- Easy access to important information
- Early and reasonable decisions on software renewal and acquisition, better budget planning
- Possible savings on software expense
- Precise knowledge of software usage throughout the company

SEGULA Technologies is an international engineering consultancy specializing in cutting-edge innovation. The company offers customers the excellent technical expertise of its employees, specific to each active business sector and/or industry vertical. Focus industries include automotive, aerospace and defense, rail, energy, and marine, among others. SEGULA Technologies France is part of the SEGULA Technologies Group that employs more than 6,800 people in 20 countries (France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, UK, Russia, Slovakia, Romania, Tunisia, Morocco, USA, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, India, Belgium and China).

Focus on software use and costs

As an engineering service provider, SEGULA Technologies makes extensive use of computer-aided engineering (CAE), computer-aided design (CAD), and other commercial development software across the enterprise. Some software tools are used more frequently than others, but all tools may be utilized on certain projects. Engineers deploy software to create models, to mesh them, to answer questions regarding design form and function, and much more. Software is in daily use by engineers. An individual license is typically retrieved from a large pool of licenses available to the company. To efficiently manage peaks and valleys in software usage, SEGULA Technologies

SEGULA Success Story

“We are very pleased with Altair’s SAO system. It enables us to supervise the different software tools and their usage, to guide our users toward efficient software usage, and provides detailed information on given activities to enable better decision-making,”

Christophe Guilloteau
Manager IT for calculation software
SEGULA Technologies

began investigating license monitoring options to record software license usage. To better control the entire license pool, SEGULA Technologies made a benchmark of different software solutions that monitor and optimize the usage and efficiency of a company’s software infrastructure. A long-term Altair partner and customer, the company decided to implement Altair’s software asset optimization solution. “We have had a very good relationship with Altair for many years and are heavy users of their CAE tools in our development process. After looking at several solutions within a

benchmark, we have chosen Altair SAO as the software system to monitor and optimize our software usage,” said Christophe Guilloteau, manager of information technology (IT) for calculation software at SEGULA Technologies. “The Altair solution enables us to trace the software usage within the company more efficiently than before, when we handled it with self-written scripts and manually within Excel.”

What is software asset optimization (SAO)?

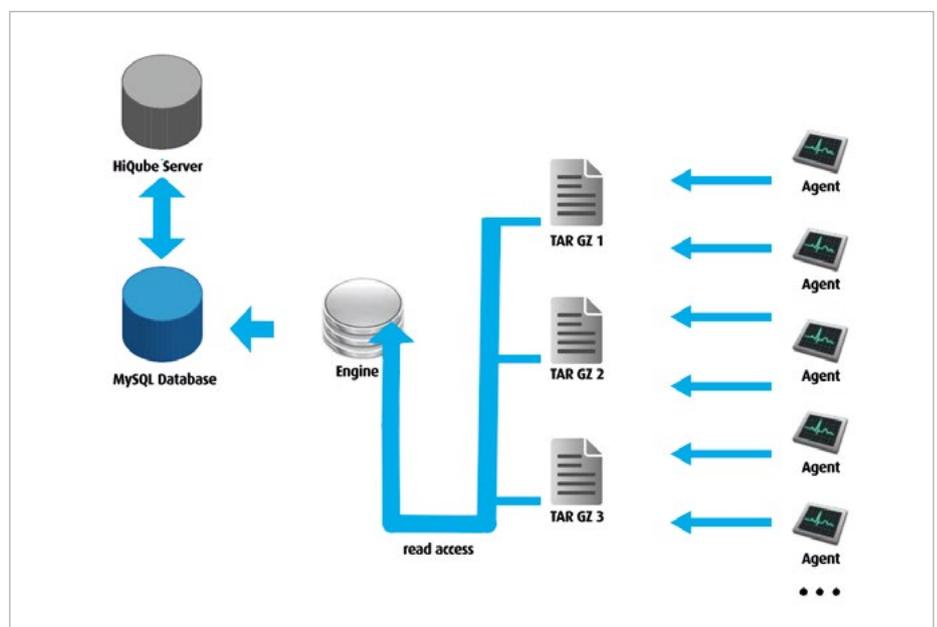
SAO enables IT and management teams

to easily and efficiently assess the actual software usage of procured software licenses within the company. Usage analysis provides useful information to make appropriate and sound decisions concerning capacity planning, acquisitions of new licenses, or right-sizing existing contracts. SAO is a rapidly deployed packaged analytics solution that supports popular license server management systems, including FLEXLM, FlexNet, LUM, LM-X, and many more. Based on information collected from all enabled vendor license servers, SAO generates consistent, on-demand reports

SAO implementation process

Data Collection:

- There is one Engine, one MySQL database and one HiQube App Server installed in the system.
- Agents send data packets to a directory on the network accessible to the engine at pre-configured frequency.
- The Engine is launched at pre-configured frequency and retrieves the data sent by various agents.
- The Engine parses this data and uploads it into the MySQL database.
- HiQube imports data incrementally from the MySQL database into various Qubes designed for different types of reports and analysis
- HiQube reports are accessed by end users through a web portal.



Use-case Solution: Software Asset Optimization



about software usage for the enterprise IT landscape. SAO comes standard with interactive dashboards to visualize key metrics and trends and generate critical alert notifications via email and text message.

SAO at SEGULA Technologies

With its new Altair SAO system, SEGULA Technologies is able to trace the usage and need of each software type precisely. Guilloteau handles the entire SAO process at SEGULA Technologies. Prior to implementation, each business unit was forced to gauge its software requirements based on subjective data. Now, IT Directors can easily evaluate capacity and budget requirements for each tool by business unit, based upon real data.

Guilloteau serves as the main contact for Altair and for each business unit manager within SEGULA Technologies for the SAO deployment. He gives the requested information to the business units and takes care of eventual problems, such as difficulties in obtaining licenses, bad dimensioning of the software landscape, people opening too many sessions or running unneeded software, and blocking software licenses for others. In addition, the system is used to monitor how many

licenses of a certain software type are available, if any usage request has been denied and why, or if a software package is not being used at all and could therefore be eliminated.

“Since we have a very large software license pool, but use some tools only very infrequently, it would be close to impossible to optimize our software park without an SAO system,” explains Guilloteau. “An additional benefit of the SAO system is that we can use it to guide and train the software users. We now can detect double licenses, unclosed sessions and much more.”

How does SAO work?

Each license server collects the individual software information locally. SEGULA Technologies uses a large variety of commercial software licenses from different vendors. For each vendor, an agent is set up to monitor the different license managers. The information of each software license server is then transferred to the SAO server and imported into a database. Based on this data SAO creates the requested reports.

“The exchange and collaboration with Altair has been extremely satisfactory. Implementation and launch went smoothly and quickly, and Altair was very quick to adapt the

system to our needs,” said Guilloteau.

Future Development

Currently, the system is only accessed by Guilloteau; in future, SEGULA plans to create different user profiles for SAO to include various business unit managers. Thanks to those profiles, users will be able to see only the information about those features they manage, assuring confidentiality. New report functions planned for early 2014 will enable customers to group reports into favorites, improving the interface. Desired reports will be easy to find and more accessible.

“We are very pleased with Altair’s SAO system. It enables us to supervise the different software tools and their usage, to guide our users toward greater efficiency, and provides detailed information on given activities to enable better decision-making,” Guilloteau concludes.

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Success Stories
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About Altair

Altair is focused on the development and broad application of simulation technology to synthesize and optimize designs, processes and decisions for improved business performance. Privately held with more than 2,000 employees, Altair is headquartered in Troy, Michigan, USA and operates more than 40 offices throughout 20 countries. Today, Altair serves more than 5,000 corporate clients across broad industry segments. To learn more, please visit www.altair.com.

About Software Asset Optimization

For Bottom-line Growth

Altair's "Software Asset Optimization" solutions (SAO) enable visualization and analysis of global software inventories and utilization rates across facilities, divisions, departments, projects and users. Having deep domain expertise in business analytics, software licensing systems and high performance computing, Altair's SAO solutions are tailored specifically to the unique needs and requirements of each organization. Powered by Altair's HiQube business analytics platform, on-demand analytics and interactive dashboards provide enterprise-wide visibility and deeper insight to aid in software procurement decision making and right-sizing software investments.

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