

Overview

Automated reconciliation of company expenses between two data source systems can help highlight potential duplicate payments to vendors that require additional attention from internal teams. The comparison of large transactional datasets based on predetermined data points and criteria can be a resource intensive business process not well suited to traditional business applications, such as Excel. A customized business intelligence solution can efficiently extract, transform and analyze large datasets to determine any possible exceptions in a timely manner for the organization. Advanced analytics tools can provide a self-serve business approach to help reduce avoidable costs related to duplicate vendor payments.

The Challenge

Our client requires that expense transactions from the accounting system and expense management system are compared to ensure that any potential duplicate vendor payments are appropriately addressed. The expense transactions are compared on key data points, such as vendor name, invoice date, and invoice amount, and assessed according to predetermined business criteria. There is potential risk that company expenses are paid twice through the expense management system and traditional PO process. Our challenge was to prepare a customized solution to:

- Automate the collection and reconciliation of two datasets, accounting system and expense management system (via API)
- Generate a dashboard that provides analysis and reporting capabilities for duplicate vendor payments

Industry: Energy
Location: Calgary, AB
Size: 1,500+

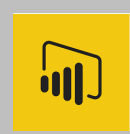
Company Bio

A North American energy infrastructure company that is based in Calgary, Alberta. The company operates in three business segments: gas, power generation, and utilities.



Enhanced Data
Reconciliation and Analysis

1000 Manhours Saved Per Year



Harnessing the power of
Microsoft Power BI and
Azure Data Factory

The Solution

Raven Bay capitalized on capabilities from Azure and Power BI to meet stakeholder requirements for an automated solution:

- Azure Data Factory was used to extract data from the expense management system API and load into an Azure Data Lake storage
- Power BI was used for visualization to create an exception analysis and reporting dashboard that is easily accessible to key stakeholders
- Integrate datasets from the accounting system and expense management system into the Power BI dashboard for most up-to-date information

The Results

Raven Bay’s innovative approach delivering a Power BI focused solution now performs the following tasks:

- Fully automated, user friendly and SOX compliant reporting that identifies potential duplicate payments
- Determine higher risk vendors, individuals and transactions in order to minimize financial impact
- On-demand data refresh through a simple interface

“While many duplicate payments are recognized after high integrity recipients notice the mistake, others go unnoticed until expensive recovery audits are performed... Using data [analytics]... can strengthen procedures and put processes in place to detect duplicate payments that have slipped past the prevention controls of... financial systems.”*

Director of Analytics at Avaap