Food Bank Bridges Data Gap
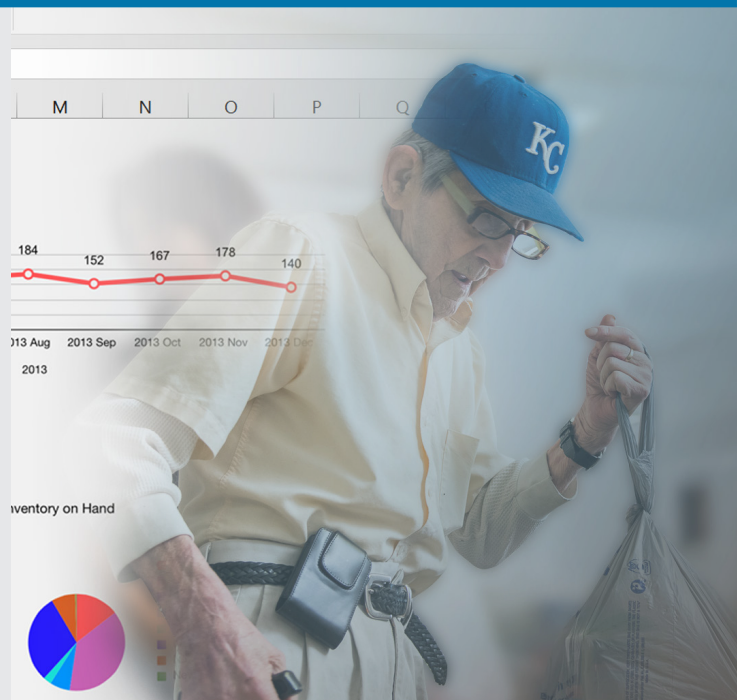## with Business Intelligence

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Harvesters, The Community Food Network, is a regional food bank on a mission to feed hungry people today and work to end hunger tomorrow.

The Kansas City, Missouri-based non-profit needed to upgrade to a new data system to help it meet the needs of the community it serves. This case study highlights how Harvesters bridged the gap between the legacy and new systems, saving money and resources in the process.

Harvesters provides food and related household products to a 26-county area of northwestern Missouri and northeastern Kansas. They serve more than 620 not-for-profit agencies including emergency food pantries, community kitchens, homeless shelters, children's homes and others.

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Noreen Zahner,
Director of Quality Assurance for Harvesters

HARVESTERS
COMMUNITY FOOD NETWORK

With a workforce of 102 employees, Harvesters' main warehouse and distribution facility is located in Kansas City, Missouri, with a second facility in Topeka, Kansas built in October, 2010.

The Challenge
A planned system upgrade presents an unexpected side effect

In 2013, Harvesters upgraded from Microsoft Dynamics® NAV 4.03b to NAV 2009 but migrating data from the old system to the new system was shaping up to be a significant challenge for the food bank due to mismatched system architectures.

"We thought about running reports against both systems and combining the numbers, but the possibility for errors was a concern. We needed a way to ensure that we could create a single report looking at both systems' transactions to make reporting simple," said Noreen Zahner, Director of Quality Assurance for Harvesters.

Further complicating the issue, the go-live date for the new Dynamics NAV system was scheduled to occur a few weeks prior to year-end, so the existing reports would not work during this critical period. Failure was not an option for the thriving organization and the partners who depend on their support.

Prior to deciding on Jet Enterprise, Harvesters looked at options from Crystal and Tableau. Hiring a programmer to build a BI solution from scratch using SQL Server Reporting Services was also considered. In the end, these solutions didn't match up with the specific upgrade and data migration challenges the food bank faced.
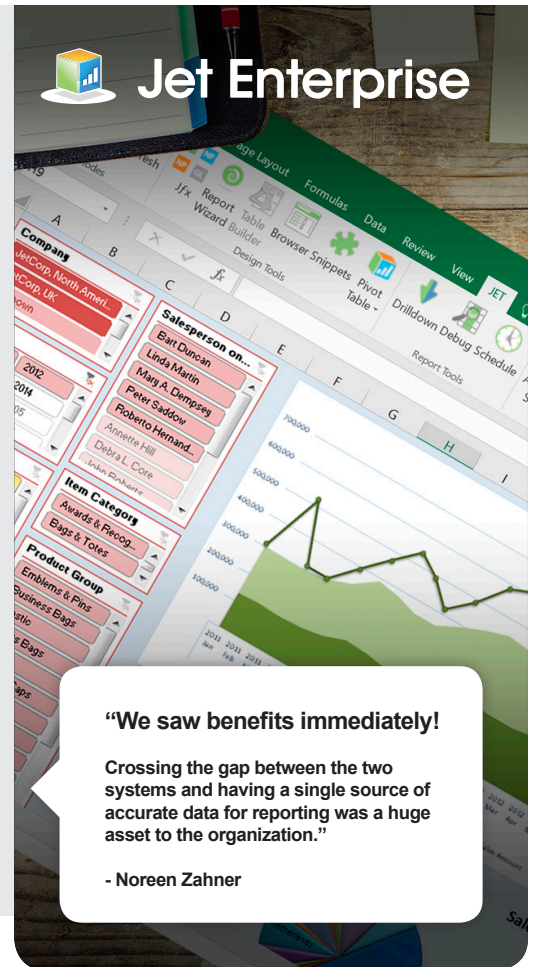
The Solution
A simple, elegant approach to streamline Dynamics NAV upgrades

Instead of rewriting reports and completely migrating the transactional data from one system to another, Harvesters made the decision to use Jet Enterprise, the reporting and business intelligence solution from Jet Reports, to report from both systems simultaneously using Jet Enterprise's data warehouse automation technology.

"Once we had scheduled our installation the process went quite fast. We had a complete project up-and-running in less than two hours," said Noreen.

Working with the installation team at Jet Reports, the two data sources were added to the data warehouse and reports that seamlessly integrated data from both systems were running in about a week. The Harvesters team achieved the go-live date for the new ERP system and the food bank produced the time-sensitive fiscal year-end reports without a delay.

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- Noreen Zahner

The Results
Seamless reporting with a central data warehouse and customizable cubes

"We saw benefits immediately. Crossing the gap between the two systems and having a single source of accurate data for reporting was a huge asset to the organization," said Noreen.

The fact that the tool directly interacts with existing reporting was very helpful for the Harvesters team. The food bank was able to use existing Microsoft Dynamics NAV reports with simple alterations to match the data warehouse table structure, saving time and money.

In the life cycle of every ERP system, upgrades are inevitable and can bring a host of benefits along with unforeseen challenges. Jet Enterprise can make a Microsoft Dynamics NAV upgrade a more seamless experience, saving time and resources.

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To learn more about Jet Enterprise, please visit us online today.
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Jet Reports delivers unparalleled access to data through fast and flexible reporting and business analytics solutions that are cost effective, provide rapid time-to-value and are built specifically for the needs of Microsoft ERP users.

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