

Nordea Group Conquers Compliance with New Data Catalog

Waterline Data helps financial services group affordably appease regulators faster.

Nordea Group Backstory

Nordea Group is the largest financial services group in the Nordic region, one of the biggest banks in Europe, and operates in 16 countries globally. Nordea Group serves more than 10 million personal customers and more than half a million corporate customers.

The Challenge

Regulatory compliance is a fundamental part of today's financial world. Large financial houses such as Nordea Group are categorized as Globally Systemically Important Banks (GSIBs). They need a regulatory reporting framework that can adapt to a constantly evolving environment – from Basel II and III to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – under the highest level of scrutiny from regulators.

Nordea's challenge is one that is common to most global banks. According to Alasdair Anderson, Executive Vice President and Chief Digital Officer at Nordea, "We have multiple silos of data across the organization, details managed in different ways across the organization, and we are being driven by our customers, our organization, and by our regulators to produce information that is consistent and can be joined up in a consistent fashion."

Nordea manages a complex and distributed data matrix across multiple business lines and jurisdictions. Managing this data through manual processes is time consuming, labor intensive, and doesn't offer any economies of scale. In addition, relying on manual processes to document where data was located exposed the organization to error risks, and success was highly dependent on the skills of each individual data analyst.

Additionally, with existing legacy systems, which used a combination of mainframe, relational, ETL, and classic data warehousing technologies, responding to the demands of regulators in a timely fashion was both a challenge and cost prohibitive.

Challenges

- Compliance with regulations such as GDPR, Basel II, Basel III across petabytes of data
- Multi-jurisdictional monitoring of data controlled across 16 countries

Results

- Automatically identified and tagged sensitive data
- Secured and governed both consumer and corporate customer data
- Integrated cataloging with masking, data preparation, and workflow automation

Benefits

- ✓ 10X cost savings per terabyte of data
- ✓ Achieved GDPR compliance
- ✓ Reduced regulatory reporting turnaround from months to days

Applications Integrated

Apache Sentry – Hadoop/Spark

The Solution

By moving to a Hadoop architecture, Nordea could respond quickly to the addition of new data sources and new requests from regulators thanks to the flexibility provided by schema on read within the Hadoop world. Nordea decided to implement a data catalog that would automatically tag data as it entered the new environment and provide quality statistics, as well as track the lineage of that data. They chose the Waterline Smart Data Catalog because it was engineered from day one to run on Hadoop.

Now when regulators have questions or want to stress test the portfolio for 30/60/90 days, Nordea can quickly locate data and generate reports by querying the catalog. In the past, 80% of the effort in responding to requests was spent looking for data. Now with a data catalog at the center of the process, all the time spent hunting for data can be spent responding to regulators in a timely manner.

According to Derek Yeung, Head of Platform Engineering at Nordea, "Before we had an information catalog empowered by Waterline Data, it could take up to weeks or even months for us to create a regulation report, but now with that information catalog, data analysts or data scientists will be able to pull together a regulation report or a prototype of the report within a day or two."

Additionally, Waterline's solution includes automated data fingerprinting that automatically tags data. Used alongside manual curation of ratings and reviews, the Waterline process provides objective profiling information combined with user

Nordea

“Traditionally, compliance is seen as an overhead, but with Waterline Data we see compliance as an opportunity to ensure we’re doing our job really, really, well.

Alasdair Anderson
EVP and CDO, Nordea Bank

opinions as they use data to generate various reports. This combined approach of automation and manual curation is up to 90% faster than the previous manual-only process.

Waterline's Smart Data Catalog was also built with a significant number of REST APIs. This allows Nordea to implement the catalog as a platform that can be seamlessly integrated with access control systems as well as Nordea's new business intelligence application of choice. Sensitive data entering the data lake can be automatically tagged, and those tags can be passed to the underlying access control system so users who have the proper credentials can get access to that data. Users of the business intelligence (BI) suite will also have secure visibility into the data catalog without having to leave their BI tool.

With Waterline at the core of the data resource management architecture, Nordea can now quickly and affordably respond to their rapidly changing regulatory world.

Waterline Data automates data discovery, compliance, and the ability to take action on data by using a combination of artificial intelligence, machine learning, ratings and reviews, and tribal knowledge to deliver a Smart Data Catalog. Our customers spend less time searching for data and more time using it to derive value while complying with data governance mandates such as GDPR. Our data catalog is best of breed for enterprises with big data implementations from multiple sources or migrations to the cloud.