> "Data integrity and consistency is significantly better with the Pyramid Decision Intelligence Platform, and the speed of delivery of insights is much faster."

Sr. Department Manager of
BI Projects at TFG

Key Figures

Single Platform View
Shared data aggregated for non-technical people

Faster Reporting
Speed up insights across the business

Familiar Interface
Easy-to-use capabilities mean no training required

**Future-Proof Analytics**
Platform works with hybrid IT systems

TFG Integrates Multi-Source Data Sets and Enables Faster, More Intelligent Decision-Making

The South African retail group uses Decision Intelligence to expand and speed analytics, reporting, and insights.

THE CHALLENGE

Headquartered in Cape Town, South Africa, The Foschini Group (TFG) has 4,000 stores in 32 countries, and 29 retail brands that trade in fashion, jewelry, accessories, sporting apparel, and furniture. The firm has grown rapidly through acquisition, amassing complex back-office systems along the way.

The retailer has about 20 different data sources, and pockets of analytics for merchandising, financials, logistics, ecommerce, and manufacturing were run across different on-prem and cloud systems, including SAP, Oracle, Microsoft, and Amazon Web Services (AWS). With a multitude of hybrid systems, TFG's existing solution wasn't powerful enough to give them quick, accurate, and deep insights. In addition, they lacked the ability to combine and analyze data from their current technical stack.
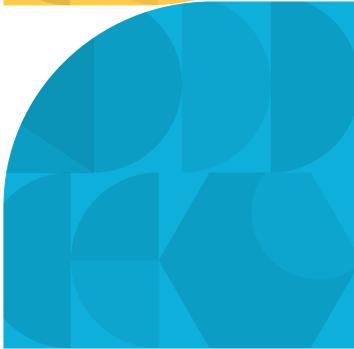
"We process around 20 million records daily just for our stock-at-hand inventory, which was too much for Microsoft PowerBI and Tableau to handle," says TFG's senior department manager in charge of BI projects.

TFG's BI team was spending weeks moving data around to create deep financial reports for buyers and planners, and dashboards for monthly board meetings.
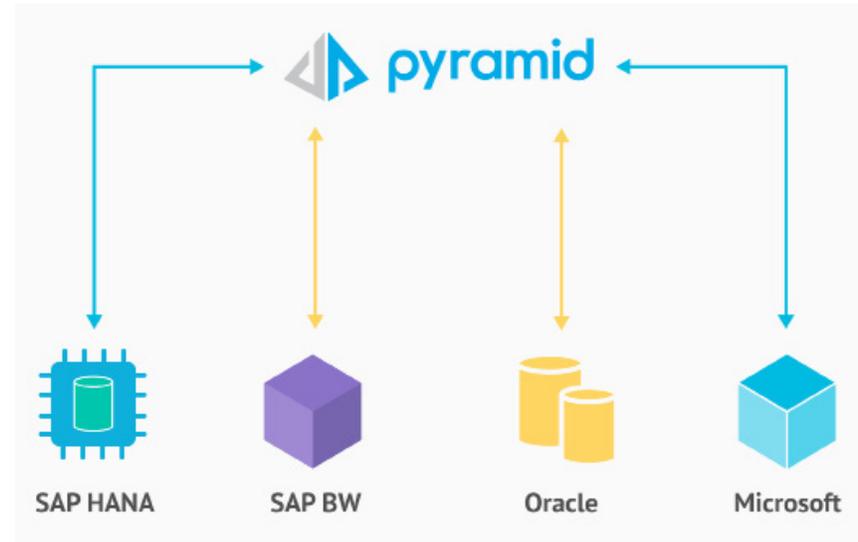
In addition to fast and multi-source direct data access, TFG needed the ability to easily produce deeper insights, and provide governed, AI-guided self-service for a diverse pool of workers. Plus, they wanted to reduce cloud operational costs and integrate their disparate systems.

TFG's BI team knew a single-platform approach would be the best way to address the scale and complexity of the data the business generated.

THE SOLUTION

TFG selected Pyramid to be the de facto decision intelligence platform for the entire group, because the Pyramid Decision Intelligence Platform, a one-stop-shop for any analytics need, treats multiple data sets as a single shared resource, with an aggregated view into everything — from a single stock-keeping unit to margins and profitability.

"Pyramid was significantly faster than anything else out there," says TFG's senior department manager of BI projects. "It integrated easily with all our systems, including letting us run our sales in near–real time in BW/4HANA, and it was much better at bringing different data sets together."

TFG wanted to avoid moving data around, and Pyramid provided them with a single view of data pulled from four business streams: merchandise management, financials, eCommerce, and a clothes-manufacturing arm. Each has its own systems and applications, on and off premises, drawing on a wide range of vendors, including SAP, Oracle, Microsoft, and AWS.

"People don't need three days training like you need with other BI products. If you work in Excel, you can use Pyramid, that's the bottom line."

Sr. Department Manager of BI Projects at TFG

Pyramid integrated analytics and directly accessed data from all the data sources into a single, unified, governed analytics environment, without data extraction or duplication, in a frictionless, integrated pipeline.

TFG is also leveraging Pyramid's intuitive interface both to deliver more relevant data to people more quickly and to improve data literacy across the organization.

"People don't need three days of training on Pyramid like you do with other BI products," says TFG's senior department manager of BI projects. "If you work in Excel, you can use Pyramid. That's the bottom line."

THE BENEFITS

The 60-page reports for buyers and planners that had taken the BI team one week to run are now produced in one hour. The procurement group previously needed three and a half days to compile reports that Pyramid now runs in 10 minutes. Manufacturing used to take a week working with Excel spreadsheets to analyze data that can now be pulled out in an hour.

Similar time savings in producing TFG's copious reports are being seen company-wide, and members of the BI team are using the time saved more productively — analyzing the data for insights. In turn, the comprehensive reports now being provided through Pyramid to the board and the executive team are informing key business decisions.

Real-time reporting with elements of self-service is in process, and Pyramid is working with TFG to employ governance best practices to ensure the data is curated and reliable.

Pyramid has given the BI team the ability to combine and analyze multiple data sets, which they simply couldn't do with other BI tools. It's not just about the scale, however. According to TFG, "Data integrity and consistency is significantly better with Pyramid, and the speed of delivery of insights is much faster."

Like many companies running their businesses across a hybrid of cloud and on-prem IT, TFG is finding Pyramid to be a powerful platform for overlaying disparate data sets with centralized analytics. "We're giving our people quicker access to consistent data that we leave in one place rather than move around," TFG's senior department manager of BI projects says. "It's a universal platform for everyone.

"Pyramid helps us bring different data sets together in a single, shared resource, giving us an aggregate view into inventory, margins, and profitability. We went from having disparate data sets to fully centralized analytics."
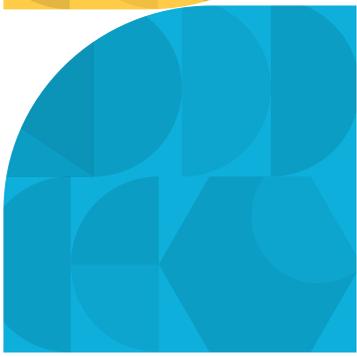
With the Pyramid Platform, TFG can:

Accelerate time to value with faster reporting

Deliver role-based insights from a single source of data

Access centralized analytics from hybrid environments

Innovate with new data sources generated by technologies like RFID