

SUCCESS CASE

CODEX

A NEW WAY TO EXPERIENCE DATA PROTECTION

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INTRODUCTION

CODEX stands for customized operations and data discovery experience. It is a unique solution that provided EDP with a new data protection capability. CODEX is also an example of how a committed and resilient team overcame several roadblocks. Their efforts provided the company with a one-of-its-kind solution that answers all General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements and solves the problem of the IT system's idiosyncrasies at the same time. CODEX has delivered successful data management and GDPR compliance since May 25th, 2018.

MAIN CHALLENGES

In 2017, EDP started its GDPR compliance project with a gap analysis to identify compliance needs with the aim of finding an IT solution to bridge the identified gap. However, GDPR requirements combined with the complexity and variety of EDP's IT systems, had pinpointed a few challenging issues:

- **The idiosyncrasy of EDP's IT systems.** The company's technologies are diverse and often incompatible, requiring extra thoroughness in the choice and installation of an IT solution;
- **Data discovery requirement.** GRDP compliance meant starting with the identification of "where" personal data are;
- **Data mapping requirement.** With so many different systems operating in the company, a tool was needed to match fields from one database to another;
- **Installation of the purchased solution.** Matching the solution's features with the peculiarities of the company's systems turned out to be tougher than predicted.

All these issues forced EDP to rethink how it would address the GDPR compliance challenge.

SOLUTION

In early 2018, a taskforce team was appointed to strengthen the efforts to install and adapt the purchased solution. However, with the lack of positive results and time running out before the new regulation came into force, the team had to think outside the box to develop a "plan B" that would turn out to be a solution to EDP's GDPR compliance challenges. Starting with a few scripts and a dashboard in Power BI, this committed and resilient team deployed CODEX; a customized solution enabling data discovery, mapping, and classification. It was the beginning of a new data experience in the company that, through time, evolved to cover far more applications than just personal data processing.

2.724.500

tables where discovery was carried out

+300.100

tables with personal data

+476.500

column with personal data

1.061

Databases where discovery was carried out;

+130

analyzed applications

About Digital Global Unit (DGU)

Digital Global Unit (DGU) was born to help EDP Group drive transformation to digital by developing outstanding ideas to improve and optimize processes and thus simplifying both clients and employees' journey. Comprised of a multifaceted team of developers, engineers, designers, data scientists, and other experts, DGU works every day to turn impossible ideas into successful business projects at EDP Digital Factory.

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HOW IT WORKS



DATA DICTIONARIES

At the heart of CODEX, data dictionaries define the meaning of personal data in the company's IT systems. This application uses three specific dictionaries to achieve the maximum possible outcomes: DBSAT (more technical, it is used for metadata and security data collection), EDPSAT (customized with utilities' sector vocabulary), and SAPSAT (a specific dictionary for SAP systems).



DATA MAPPING

To address another GDPR requirement, CODEX maps all data categories and types between different systems. This way, it is possible to complete a data drill-down to identify, for example, the need to install more security protocols, according to the information sensitivity.



DATA DISCOVERY

Using three dictionaries and without data volume limitations or downtime, CODEX can perform personal data discovery and inventory. Through the scanning of all the company's systems and applications to look for information, personal data is identified and classified in different types.



CBP

Besides the GDPR-required data protection officer (DPO), EDP created a compliance business partner (CBP) for each business unit and department. Like the DPO, a CBP's primary function is to ensure that all divisional data processes run in adherence to data protection laws and policies.



PEOPLE

The CODEX team started as a task force to help install a partner's solution. However, the team's commitment and dedication led them to research, investigate, and think about an effective and suitable alternative solution for EDP. There's no doubt that CODEX was born out of the team's will and passion for their company's success.



BENEFITS

- Knowledge and control over the personal data within the company;
- A cross-sectional tool that performs personal data discovery across all the company's IT systems;
- A guarantee that all new applications and data repositories containing personal data are registered;
- Visibility over the security controls applied in IT systems;
- Straightforward and direct access to database security parameters.

BUMPS IN THE ROAD

CODEX's success was immediately recognized. For the first time, EDP has an application able to discover and display personal data, or any other kind of information, when configured to do so.

With such vast potential, it was almost inevitable that an overload of new ideas surfaced, and a long pipeline of new requests grew.

Meeting such demand has been a challenge for the CODEX team. Team members are struggling to attain the always hard-to-achieve balance between time and resource availability to work on these new projects. Despite the demand, the company can always rely on the team's usual dedication and commitment to innovate and evolve.

RESULTS

To be GDPR compliant, EDP needed a tool to action data discovery, mapping, and classification that is compatible with all the existing technologies and that delivers reliable and fast performance. Built in-house, CODEX was (and still is) the most suitable solution to all the company's needs. Without data volume limitations or downtime, this customized tool performs its mission in a matter of a few minutes, having already processed more than 100 applications.

By providing new and improved knowledge and visibility of personal information within the company, CODEX has undeniably reshaped how EDP experiences data processing, and it has inspired an enormous list of use-case possibilities.