

CASE STUDY

Correla is Building a Collaborative Data Governance Program with ER/Studio



20% Reduced Compliance Risk

30% Reduced Manual Data Modeling Time

Background

In March 2021, Correla was established as an independently owned business to fuel innovation within the energy sector. With a core mission of simplifying the complexities of the energy market through Software as a Service (SaaS) and Managed Services, Correla has taken a leadership role in delivering operational efficiencies and cost optimization across the industry. However, this mission was hampered by data challenges that required restructuring their approach to data governance.

Challenge

Julian Clemas-Howard, the Enterprise Data Architect at Correla, encountered a daunting challenge. The company manages the data from over 24 million gas meters across the UK, including critical information about gasoline usage, demand management, and operational activities. However, the data was housed in a legacy SAP system, suffering from an unstructured, flat format that made it difficult to use for strategic purposes.

This disorganized data environment led to several obstacles:

- **Data Silos:** The lack of a unified structure prevented different teams from sharing data insights and collaborating effectively.
- **Poor Data Quality:** With limited governance and a flat data structure, there was no reliable way to ensure that the data was accurate, timely, and consistent.
- **Inefficient Tools:** Correla's existing tool for managing data models proved ineffective. A competitor to ER/Studio, it struggled to handle multiple physical models beneath a single logical model, which increased manual workloads for Clemas-Howard's team.

Without a robust architecture to organize and govern their data, Correla's data governance initiatives were stalling. The organization needed a solution that could transform this data chaos into a structured, actionable resource for decision-making, data democratization, and strategic planning.

The first task for Clemas-Howard and his team was to catalog and document their data. Additionally, their current tool was not effectively handling the work.

Clemas-Howard shared, "A competitor to ER/Studio slowed us down. Its inability to handle multiple physical models beneath a logical model added time-consuming manual labor for my team."

He continued, "The other problem we had was their version of a repository, has a clunky user interface. This led to further delays because it wasn't easy to share models with our team and stakeholders in our organization."

Solution

In their search for a more powerful and efficient tool, Correla adopted ER/Studio Enterprise with Team Server Core. This decision transformed how Correla managed its data, laying the foundation for a revised data governance program.

ER/Studio provided critical features that directly addressed Correla's data challenges:

- **Reverse Engineering of Data:** Correla was able to reverse engineer existing data from their legacy SAP system, quickly creating detailed, accurate data models that could be used for governance and analytics.
- **Managing Multiple Physical Models:** Unlike their previous tool, ER/Studio allowed Clemas-Howard's team to manage multiple detailed physical models beneath each logical model, saving significant time and effort in the data modeling process.
- **Improved Collaboration:** ER/Studio enabled the Data Architecture team to fluidly share data models, collaborate on insights, and engage with stakeholders across various departments. This led to faster, more coordinated decision-making and increased cross-team alignment.

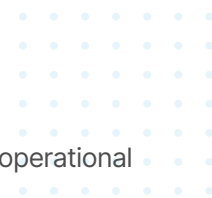
With ER/Studio, Correla was able to reinvigorate its data governance program, creating a unified strategy that engaged the entire organization. Clemas-Howard noted that ER/Studio's nuanced and powerful capabilities made it the ideal solution for their needs, especially given the critical importance of the project to Correla's long-term success.

"Our detailed data models are just what my team needed to re-energize our data governance initiative," Clemas-Howard said, "And ER/Studio's ability to share data across business lines has proven to be a unifying project."

“A competing product slowed us down. Its inability to handle multiple physical models beneath a logical model added time-consuming manual labor for my team.”



Benefits



Key Features of ER/Studio and the Impact on Correla

The implementation of ER/Studio brought several key benefits to Correla's data management efforts, driving operational efficiencies and enabling more strategic use of their data:

Reverse Engineering of Legacy Data:

- ER/Studio allowed the team to reverse engineer data from their legacy SAP system, enabling them to quickly create detailed data models and document the relationships between different data elements. This was essential for building an organized, structured foundation for their data governance program.

Managing Complex Data Models:

- One of the standout features of ER/Studio was its ability to manage multiple physical models beneath a single logical model. This feature significantly reduced the manual labor involved in data management, freeing up Clemas-Howard's team to focus on higher-level tasks.
- Correla's previous tool had struggled with this aspect, forcing the team to manually create and update multiple models, which led to inefficiencies and delays.

Enhanced Collaboration and Data Democratization:

- With Team Server Core, Correla was able to share its data insights and models across the organization, improving collaboration between the Data Architecture team and other departments. This enabled more data-driven decision-making across the business, fostering a culture of data sensibility.
- The tool's intuitive user interface also made it easier to engage less technical stakeholders, ensuring that all business units could participate in the data strategy.

Customizable Macros for Tailored Workflows:

- ER/Studio's customizable macros allowed Correla to adapt the platform to their unique data environment, further streamlining their data governance workflows. This flexibility enabled the team to tailor the solution to their specific needs, improving overall efficiency.

Improved Data Quality and Risk Reduction:

- The implementation of ER/Studio helped Correla improve the quality of their data, reducing errors and ensuring that the information used for strategic decision-making was accurate and reliable. This not only enhanced decision-making but also minimized the risks associated with poor data quality, such as operational inefficiencies and compliance issues.

"Working with ER/Studio has generated the results we needed so that we can keep driving our technology and business forward."

Clemas-Howard

Collaboration Improvement: With the implementation of ER/Studio's Team Server Core, Correla saw a 50% increase in cross-team collaboration efficiency by enabling fluid sharing of data insights and models across departments. The user-friendly interface made it easier for technical and non-technical stakeholders to engage in data strategy discussions.

Reduction in Data Management Time: Correla experienced a 20-30% reduction in time spent on data management tasks, including data cataloging and documentation, thanks to ER/Studio's automation features and customizable macros that streamlined repetitive workflows.



Book A Demo

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Click the link to schedule a personalized product demonstration.

“Overall, everything from the installation process and product support to the impact we're getting from IDERA has far exceeded our expectations.