



WineWorks

Unified data accelerates growth

WineWorks, a premier New Zealand wine bottling company, bottles up to 65,000 cases a day. The company aimed to automate its processes to enhance the efficiency of its bottling lines and services.

Challenge

WineWorks' operational data was scattered across different systems. The lack of central data management not only made automation difficult but a business risk if any bottling line errors were not identified quickly.

Solution

In just six weeks, Fujitsu helped WineWorks build the foundations of an end-to-end infrastructure that connects all data sources and collects real-time data.

Outcomes

- Established an end-to-end data infrastructure to accelerate growth
- Enabled real-time data collection to improve efficiency and decision-making
- Built up capabilities and confidence of IT team in data technologies

“Fujitsu has helped accelerate our plan for a smart factory. Instead of developing over several years, we will now have many components of our plan in place in the next few months.”

Ernie Scherf, Group IT Manager, WineWorks



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**years saved in automating
bottling processes**

Siloed data from disparate systems

Since its inception in 1995, WineWorks has played a pivotal role in supporting the New Zealand wine industry by providing essential bottling infrastructure and services.

For more than 29 years, the company has expanded alongside its winery clients, ensuring ample capacity for bottling, labelling, storage, and distribution—all specialised processes that demand expert handling and world-class quality standards.

WineWorks operates at a massive scale, bottling up to 65,000 cases a day across nine bottling lines in three plants. Each wine bottle must not only be pristinely produced, but it must also meet numerous compliance standards such as the Brand Reputation through Compliance Global Standard (BRCGS). As such, vast amounts of data are constantly generated throughout the bottling process to meet client and compliance needs.

However, this wealth of data was stored across various data platforms, leading to inefficiencies that affected business areas such as the planning of pricing strategies and delayed error reporting from the bottling line. Fundamentally, the absence of a unified data approach was impacting WineWorks' ability to optimise its operations.

Ernie Scherf, Group IT Manager at WineWorks, explains the predicament, "We had so much data and it was in quite disparate systems. We had numerous data procedures and we had to deal with truckloads of business intelligence reports. Still, there were chunks of missing data.

"We wanted to bring together the data in a coherent way so we could better predict how long a bottling run would take and increase our efficiency."

A strong data foundation for automation

Recognising the need for a more integrated approach, WineWorks sought help from Fujitsu to develop a unified data platform to streamline data processing and enhance decision-making.

Scherf says, "I was a little worried initially as we had not worked with the big data companies before." However, he was assured that Fujitsu has worked with companies of different sizes and would provide a bespoke solution tailored to WineWorks' needs and timeframe.

A Fujitsu senior solutions consultant started with a comprehensive assessment of the existing data management practices to identify gaps and designed a long-term roadmap for integration.

Then over six weeks, the Fujitsu consultant worked closely with the WineWorks IT team to help them design an end-to-end data infrastructure that would address their needs. The collaboration phase ensured the new system was tailored to WineWorks' unique requirements and seamlessly integrated with their existing processes.

The data architecture they settled on consisted primarily of a lakehouse model built on Databricks and Microsoft Azure cloud platforms. The lakehouse approach combines the flexibility and cost-efficiency of data lakes for raw data storage with the structured data management and SQL querying capabilities of traditional data warehouses. This hybrid model allows WineWorks to store all its data in open formats, while still enabling high-performance analytics and business intelligence workloads.

Industry:
Manufacturing

Location:
New Zealand

Website:
wineworks.co.nz

About the customer

Since its inception in 1995, WineWorks has played a pivotal role in supporting the New Zealand wine industry by providing essential bottling infrastructure and services. For more than 29 years, the company has expanded alongside its winery clients, ensuring ample capacity for bottling, labelling, storage, and distribution—all specialised processes that demand expert handling.



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different data systems
consolidated into one

Fujitsu also helped WineWorks implement key tools such as Databricks Unity Catalog, a governance tool for managing data and AI assets securely and efficiently. Unity Catalog provides centralised governance features that simplify the security and management of data across various workspaces and cloud platforms.

With the foundations of the new infrastructure in place, WineWorks could now begin automating the workflows for raw data collection and data transformation to processed data. User access to the system was also made secure and simpler with single sign-on implementation.

Accelerating growth with greater efficiencies

With a consolidated data platform, the company can now begin to collect and analyse data more efficiently, supporting better decision-making and strengthening the quality of its service.

“When we complete the integration process in the coming months, we expect to be able to automate more of the bottling process,” says Scherf. Real-time data monitoring and automation will minimise downtime and improve production accuracy, potentially reducing costs and enhancing output quality.

“For example, when a bottling line stops running, we will be able to get real-time notifications instead of having somebody go down to the bottling line to find out what went wrong,” says Scherf. “This will free up our staff to focus more on the quality component of their job, such as making sure the bottles are labelled and capped properly.”

Scherf originally had a seven-year plan to automate WineWorks' bottling lines and integrate them into a 'smart factory'. The partnership with Fujitsu has accelerated this timeline significantly.

“Instead of seven years, we will now have a majority of the components of my plan in place in the next few months,” he says.

Beyond the technological advancements, Scherf felt that working with Fujitsu has benefited WineWorks in a much deeper way.

On Fujitsu's commitment to knowledge transfer, Scherf says, “The Fujitsu sales and solutions teams made sure that our IT team learned as much as they could from them. Fujitsu's desire to help build up our team capabilities through collaborative training and consultation proved to be a game changer for us.

“Fujitsu did a very good job of explaining the why and the how of what we needed to do, teaching us the industry's best practices in the process. I am also truly impressed with how our IT team has grown and gained the confidence to use this technology with the help of Fujitsu.”

With the lakehouse data platform, WineWorks is well set up to realise its plan of becoming a 'smart factory'.

Customer:



Fujitsu

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