



# RETAILER FUELS RESULTS WITH DATA

## STREAMLINED DATA TRANSFORMATION ACCELERATES STRATEGIC OPERATION DECISIONS

### Background

A chain of more than 100 sporting goods stores operating across the United States needed a more efficient and accurate method for preparing and analyzing data from multiple databases, flat files, and PDFs.

### Challenge

Retail is a fast-paced business. To stay competitive, retailers must be able to quickly analyze their operational data and respond strategically to marketplace conditions, industry trends, and economic upticks and downturns. To manage data, this retail chain utilized an ERP system to centralize data from internal sources including accounts payable, inventory control, credit card reconciliation, sales auditing, and real estate operations sales. However, before operational teams could use this data to make business critical decisions, they had to combine it with data from external sources including suppliers, banks, credit card processing firms, and other third-parties.

Management wanted a less time-consuming method to assemble these critical reports and to reduce the chances of introducing errors during the manual steps that had been required to way to join data from so many disparate sources.

### Our Solution

The management team at the retailer found that Altair® Monarch® data preparation software was the optimal solution. In addition to a broad range of capabilities, the ease-of-use supported a short learning curve, required no custom coding, and connected directly to all data sources currently in use or likely to be used in the future.

### INCREASED ▲

SPEED AND ACCURACY OF MONTHLY REPORT CREATION

### MAXIMIZED ▲

USE OF DATA FOR DECISION-MAKING

### REDUCED ▼

MANUAL DATA ENTRY



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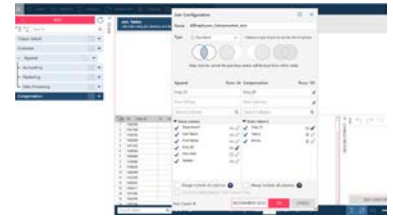
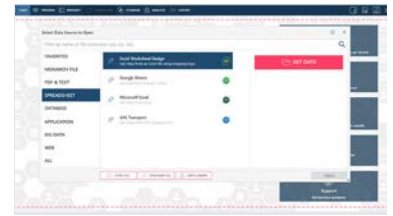
Monarch can handle structured and semi-structured data, including PDFs, text, complex spreadsheets, JSON, XML, big data sources, relational databases, and many others. Business users and analysts can extract, cleanse, and transform data into consistent, governed, and secure rows and columns without specialized knowledge or training, and without writing any code. The platform also includes more than 80 pre-built data preparation functions which makes it easy to build new error-free workflows in minutes. Monarch's flexibility enables it to evolve with the retailer's business and support ever-expanding and changing requirements.

## Results

Implementing Monarch streamlined and increased accuracy of the retail chain's 200+ monthly operations reports. To simplify report creation and support data-driven operational decisions, the company developed reusable data models they can apply to the various data sources used in their reports, and they can modify them as needed in just a few minutes. For example, Monarch automatically retrieves and formats data to generate individual store profit and loss (P&L) reports every month. The finance department also uses Monarch to bridge the gap to other departments that don't have access to Monarch.

Monarch gives the company's executives a big picture view of all their operations. They can see which stores are performing better than others and which merchandise is most popular overall and on a per store basis. They can drill down and see how much they're spending on utilities, supplies, credit card costs, and more to help them make smart decisions about their business.

To learn more, please visit [altair.com/monarch](https://altair.com/monarch)



**TOP:** Monarch is the fastest and easiest way to extract data from difficult, semi-structured data like PDFs, spreadsheets and text files.  
**BOTTOM:** Monarch outputs cleansed data as separate reports for all operating groups.