



CUSTOMER STORY

DATA INTEGRATION

COVANTA[®]

Powering Today. Protecting Tomorrow.

Ensuring data trust to drive
business outcomes



“Data analytics is our way to control and create our future.”

Charles Link, Senior Director, Data & Analytics at Covanta

Covanta provides sustainable waste-to-energy (WtE) and environmental solutions across 41 modern and clean facilities in North America and Europe.

Every year, Covanta safely converts approximately 21 million tons of waste into clean, renewable electricity to power over 1 million homes, and recycles 500,000 tons of metal. The organization also provides comprehensive industrial material management services to companies seeking solutions to some of today's most complex environmental challenges.

Data governance that delivers value

Covanta's innovative approach to sustainable waste management and clean energy solutions produces exceptional results, but also poses significant complexities and challenges.

“At Covanta, the stakes are high,” explains Charles Link, the Senior Director of Data & Analytics at Covanta. “One of our biggest initiatives aims to optimize operational efficiency. Operating an energy-from-waste facility is complicated and expensive. We must ensure the safety of our workers while generating clean electricity and maintaining maximum uptime. So for us, this project was about ensuring optimal costs and avoiding unscheduled outages.”

Link believes in applying a holistic approach to data to fuel the business and meet organizational objectives. This requires both a data use strategy, which identifies business objectives and quantifies goals, and a data management strategy, which specifies how the data use strategy is executed.

Essential to this approach is data supply chain management, or as Link describes it, “data governance that delivers value. A managed data supply chain means consistent quality from vetted, reliable suppliers. It ensures standards of meaning, quality and timeliness, and ease of access.”

Link knew that enabling data supply chain management at Covanta would require more than just a technical solution. “We partnered with Talend, which took the time to understand our data strategy and provided a combination of software and services to help make it real.”

INDUSTRY

Energy and Waste Solutions

INFORMATION

Headquarters: Morristown, New Jersey
4,000 employees

USE CASES

- Optimize operational efficiency
- Data supply chain management

CHALLENGES

Ensuring worker safety while generating clean electricity at maximum uptime

TALEND PRODUCTS USED

Talend Data Fabric:
Talend Data Catalog
Talend Data Stewardship
Talend Real-Time Big Data Platform

RESULTS

- **Shared understanding** across business and IT of what data means
- **Guaranteed, consistent** data quality
- **At least 10% savings per year** for maintenance activities alone

Establishing confidence with consistent data quality

Using various components of Talend Data Fabric, including Talend Data Catalog, Talend Data Stewardship, and Real-Time Big Data Integration, Covanta built out its data supply chain management solution in less than four months.

“The main challenge for companies remains the quality of their data,” Link asserts. “The results of our approach are essential to our business. With this data supply chain management approach, we are able to deliver consistent data quality, and we can guarantee it.”

For Link, an undertaking like this is more than just a “data project.” Instead, he says, it’s “always part of a business initiative. It’s about how to deliver incremental business value today. The outcome is not data; it’s always a business result. We’re invested in that result. Therefore, trust in the data is critical.”

Using the data supply chain management approach, the company established the Covanta Data Hub, where information is easy to find and readily consumable, and quality is assured. The hub uses a standard data architecture that relies on Talend Data Fabric, combining integration capabilities with the processes documented in Talend Data Catalog. Link credits the hub with establishing credibility, confidence, simplicity, and quality.

For maintenance activities alone, Link believes Covanta is on track to save at least 10% per year. “I like to think of Talend as the nerve center of our data fabric, and it allows us to have a wide variety of parties and data sources communicating in near real-time. By tracking the labor that goes into service activities, we can renegotiate contracts based on the actual work performed rather than initial estimates.

“Prior to doing this, there was just no way to pull this data together in one place in a way that makes sense. The fabric is what makes it all connect, and that’s where Talend comes in. Combined with our brand-new data architecture, we now can pull all of the data in terms that mean something to Covanta as a business.”

With Covanta’s data hub approach and Talend, IT can deliver the data quality needed for the business to have far greater confidence in its decisions. “There is now a shared understanding across operations and strategy, business and IT, of what our data means. Now we trust the quality of the data we use to operate our facilities.”

Link reports that with data, Covanta better gains insight into optimizing its top goals. Those priorities, according to Link, are, “First, the safety of our workers, second the growth of our company, and third, making sure we’re being good environmental partners — not only from our emissions, but also showing that we are literally taking waste out of the landfills.”

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About Qlik

Qlik transforms complex data landscapes into actionable insights, driving strategic business outcomes. Serving over 40,000 global customers, our portfolio leverages advanced, enterprise-grade AI/ML and pervasive data quality. We excel in data integration and governance, offering comprehensive solutions that work with diverse data sources. Intuitive and real-time analytics from Qlik uncover hidden patterns, empowering teams to address complex challenges and seize new opportunities. Our AI/ML tools, both practical and scalable, lead to better decisions, faster. As strategic partners, our platform-agnostic technology and expertise make our customers more competitive.

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