



## Angelo State University Needs Only Toad® for Data Analysis to Access Multiple Database Platforms

Angelo State University, based in Texas, is a public university with more than 6,500 students, 200 faculty members, and 500 administrative staff. The university needed a single solution to access a variety of different databases, including Oracle 10g, Oracle 9i, SQL Server, and Microsoft Access, running on more than 200 servers. To streamline access to these diverse database platforms, Angelo State University turned to Toad® for Data Analysis.

### The Challenge

In 2004, Angelo State University transitioned from a mainframe operation to an Oracle-based Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution and started to integrate its auxiliary systems. The university's business analysts had minimal knowledge of Oracle, SQL Plus, and PL/SQL. Technology Services Analyst Colgate Spinks purchased Toad® for Oracle and Toad® for SQL Server to help the analysts see the data they were working with during integration. These products were very helpful, but each worked with only one database platform. The university still needed an intuitive solution that would work across all its database platforms.

### The Quest Solution

After Angelo State University's great experience with Toad for Oracle and Toad for SQL Server, Spinks was committed to the Toad family. When Quest came out with Toad for Data Analysis, he was very pleased: "There are some freeware that are similar to Toad, but in all cases I've seen restrictions to the tools for accessing just one or two database platforms," stated Spinks. "I haven't found comparable tools from any vendor at this point."

As a true cross-platform tool, Toad for Data Analysis enables Spinks and his team to quickly access any of the university's numerous databases. "I can go in and browse and view any database I have," reported Spinks. "I can make sure that I did get all the elements I expected and everything came across the way I expected."

Toad for Data Analysis has been enthusiastically adopted at Angelo State. "We expect that 15 to 20 people across campus will be using Toad for Data Analysis on a routine basis," said Spinks.

And by visually representing the data, Toad for Data Analysis helps all those users quickly query and export the data they need. "We can browse and view any platform," said Spinks. "We can also write SQL queries quickly."

Spinks sums up the product this way: "The Toad product family is like the Swiss Army knife of database tools. Toad for Data Analysis provides a one-stop solution regardless of the database you need to access, and at a reasonable price."

### The Bottom Line

Before installing Toad for Data Analysis, the university's developers were using a variety of applications, such as SQL Plus, to create queries and extract data, and their selects would run several hours. "The flexibility of Toad for Data Analysis allows us to quickly examine, alter, create, and drop tables in a database and develop SQL queries," said Spinks. "We implemented a complete ERP solution in less than three years and retrained the existing mainframe IT analyst to work in a client server environment."

### Overview

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– Colgate Spinks  
Technology Services Analyst  
Angelo State University



### Headquarters

San Angelo, TX

### Services

Public university

### Critical Needs

A single solution to access and extract data from multiple database servers

### Solution

Toad® for Data Analysis

### Results

- Saves both time and money by providing a single solution for multiple database platforms
- Reduces runtime from hours to minutes
- Simplifies tasks and increases productivity
- Enables users to quickly find data across platforms

Having a single interface to multiple databases has saved Spinks and his team even more time. "It was cumbersome to look only at Oracle with a specific tool, change to another program to look at MS SQL, and then find another tool to peek at SQL Server," said Spinks. "Toad for Data Analysis brought all the platforms together in one spot with one package—that's a real time savings."

Buying just one solution has also saved the university money: "Rather than spending a huge amount of the budget on several tools to access our various applications, we have cut down on expenses by purchasing only one robust solution," reported Spinks.

Finally, Toad for Data Analysis has proven to be a reliable solution that Angelo State University can count on. "Toad for Data Analysis is a clean solution, well implemented, and it doesn't misbehave," said Spinks. "We've had applications crash on us without any explanation, but I have not encountered that with Toad for Data Analysis."

### About Angelo State University

Angelo State University is a public university located in San Angelo, Texas. It is a member of the Texas Tech University System and offers approximately 100 undergraduate programs and 21 graduate programs. 2007 enrollment stands at about 6,500; the university plans to increase that number to 10,000 by 2028.

### About Quest Software, Inc.

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