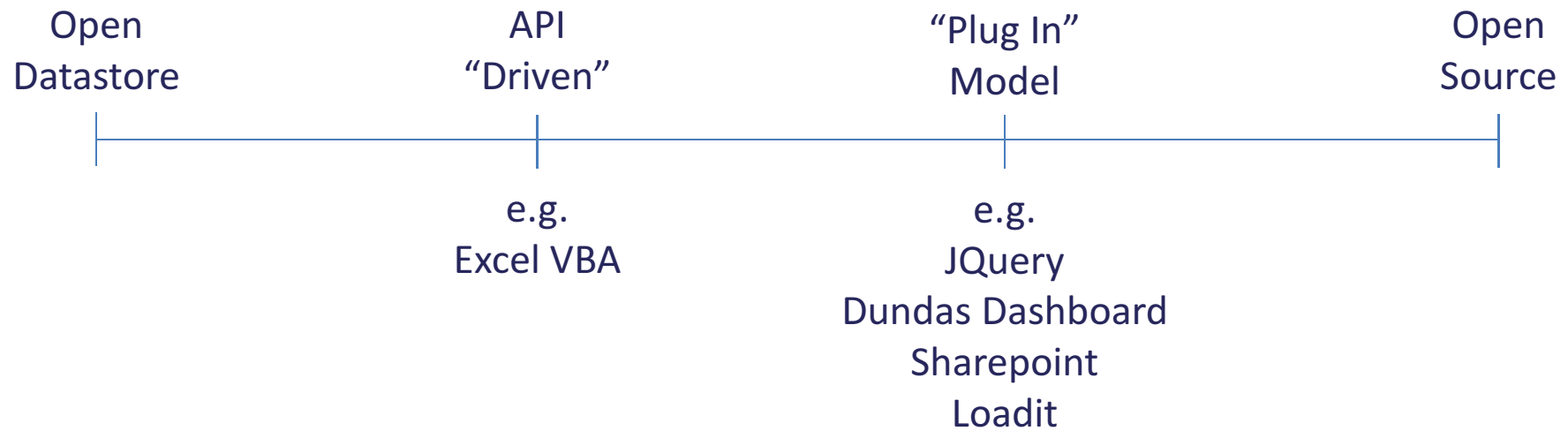


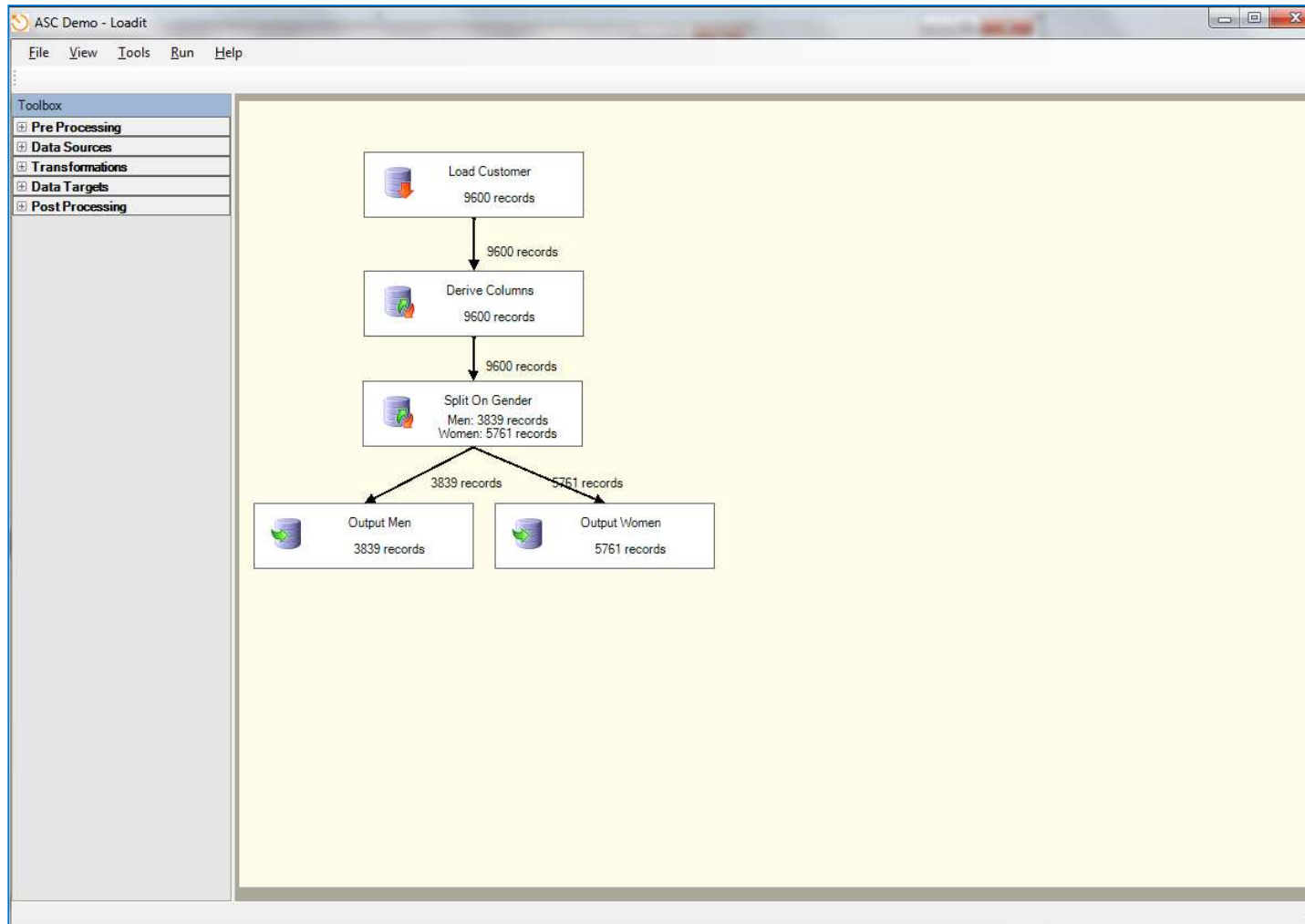


# Getting more value out of software through extensibility



- No software package can be everything to everyone
  - Extensibility allows a system's behaviour to be modified without recompiling or changing the original source code
  - Ultimately end users can get more out of a system by tailoring it to their specific requirements
-





Modules

Plug-ins

The screenshot shows the Loadit software interface. On the left is a 'Toolbox' with categories: Pre Processing, Data Sources, Transformations, Data Targets, and Post Processing. The main workspace displays a data flow diagram with the following steps:

- Load Customer**: 9600 records
- Derive Columns**: Editing... (9600 records)
- Split On Gender**: Men: 3839 records, Women: 5761 records
- Output Men**: 3839 records

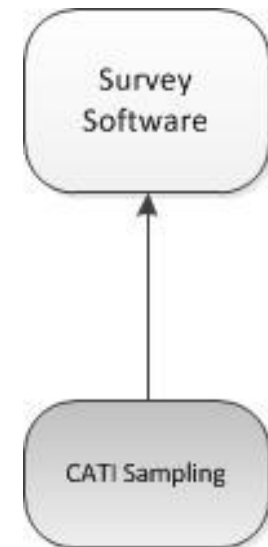
An inset window titled 'Derived Columnset - Designer' is open, showing a table with columns: Source.FirstName, Source.LASTNAME, Source.Gender, FullName, GenderCode, and Age. The formula for the 'Age' column is `AGE([Source.DOB])`.

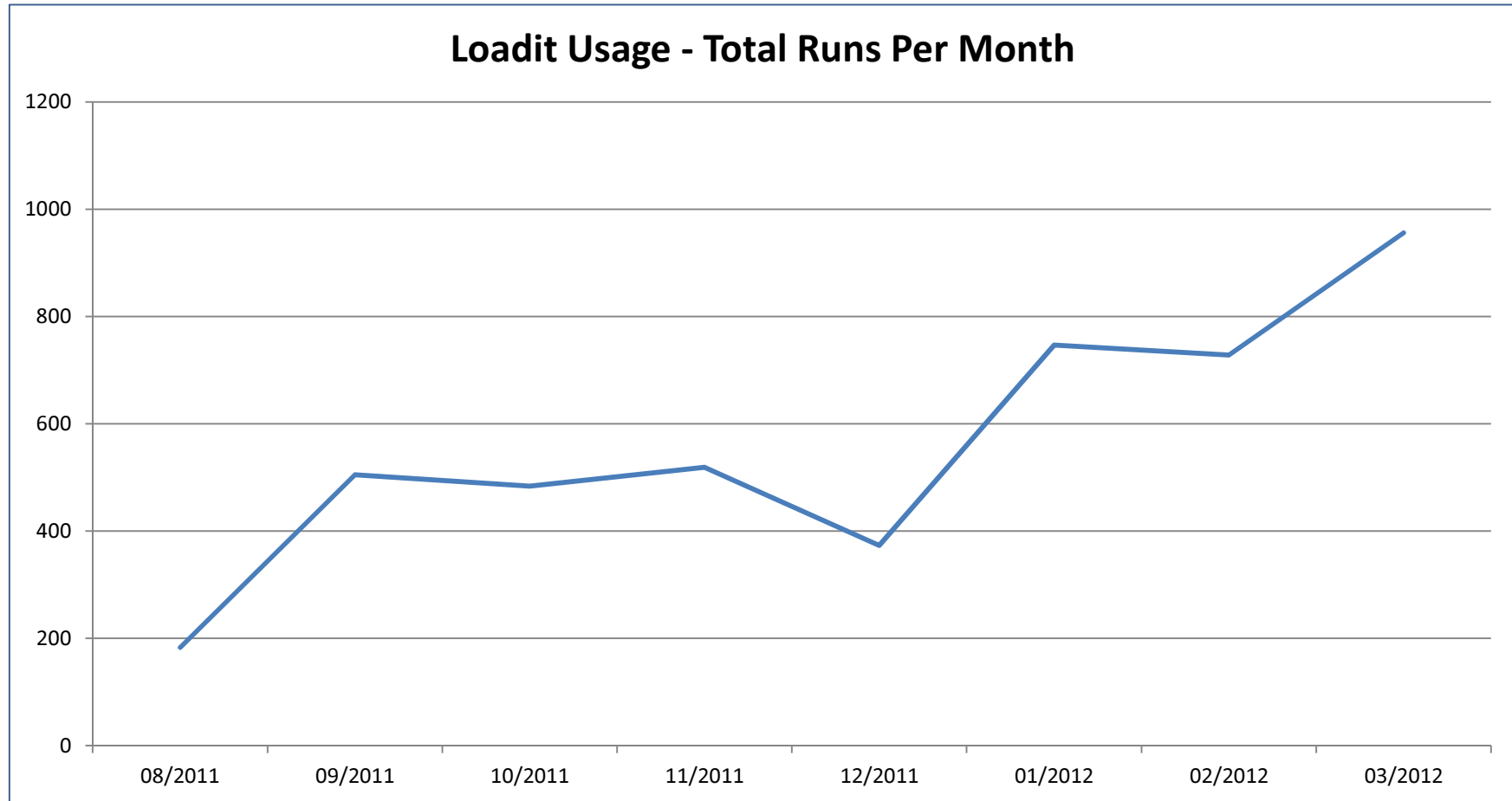
Source.FirstName	Source.LASTNAME	Source.Gender	FullName	GenderCode	Age
James	Adams	M	James Adams	1	55
Angela	Brown	F	Angela Brown	2	55
Sally	Clifton	F	Sally Clifton	2	58
Sally	Evans	F	Sally Evans	2	40
Sally	Evans	F	Sally Evans	2	45
Angela	Green	F	Angela Green	2	48
Sally	Harris	F	Sally Harris	2	44
James	Smedley	M	James Smedley	1	44
Sally	Davies	F	Sally Davies	2	42
Angela	Brown	F	Angela Brown	2	38
Sally	Smith	F	Sally Smith	2	47
Angela	Brown	F	Angela Brown	2	53
James	Evans	M	James Evans	1	47
James	Adams	M	James Adams	1	51
James	Brown	M	James Brown	1	40

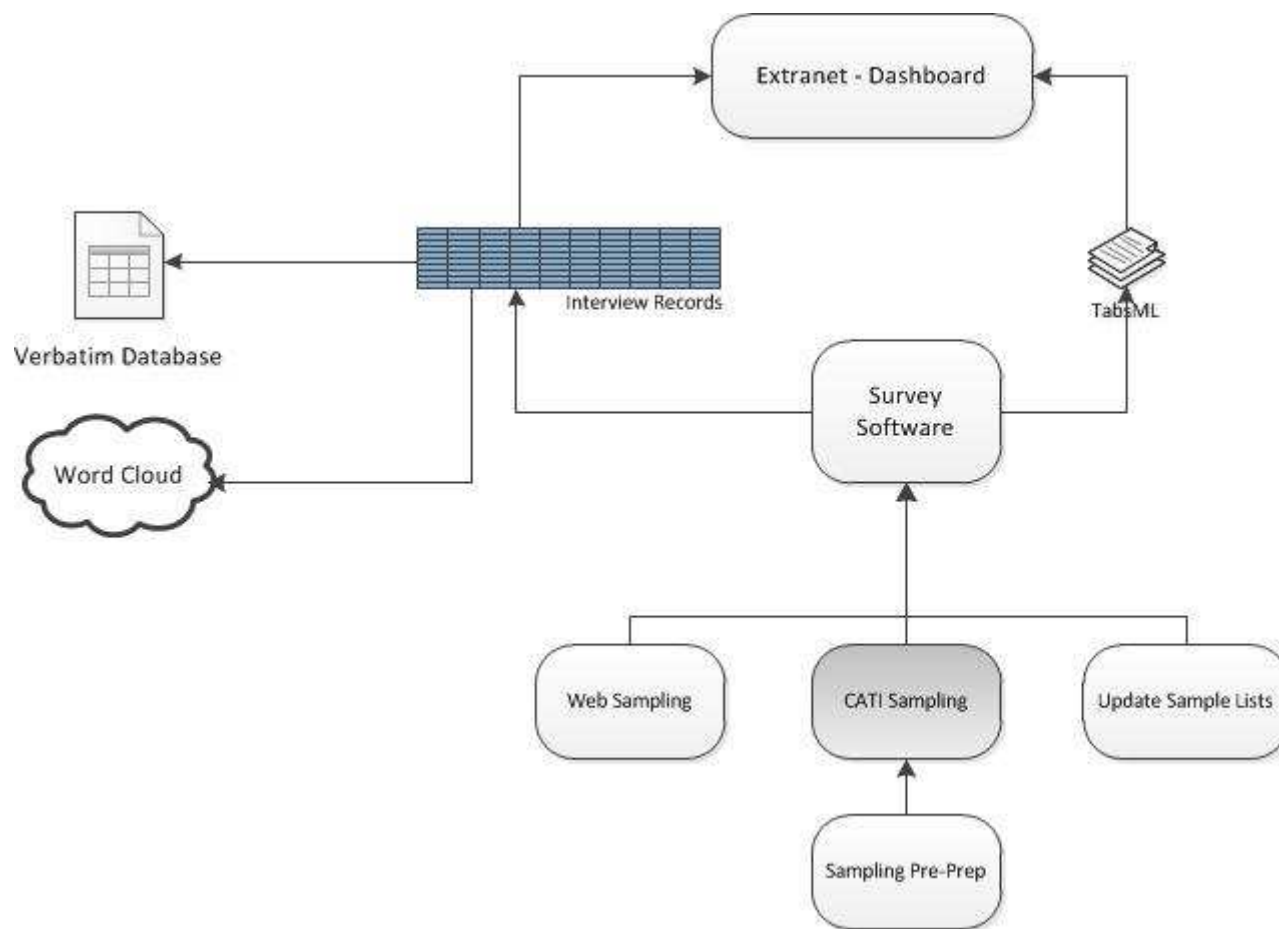
Functions



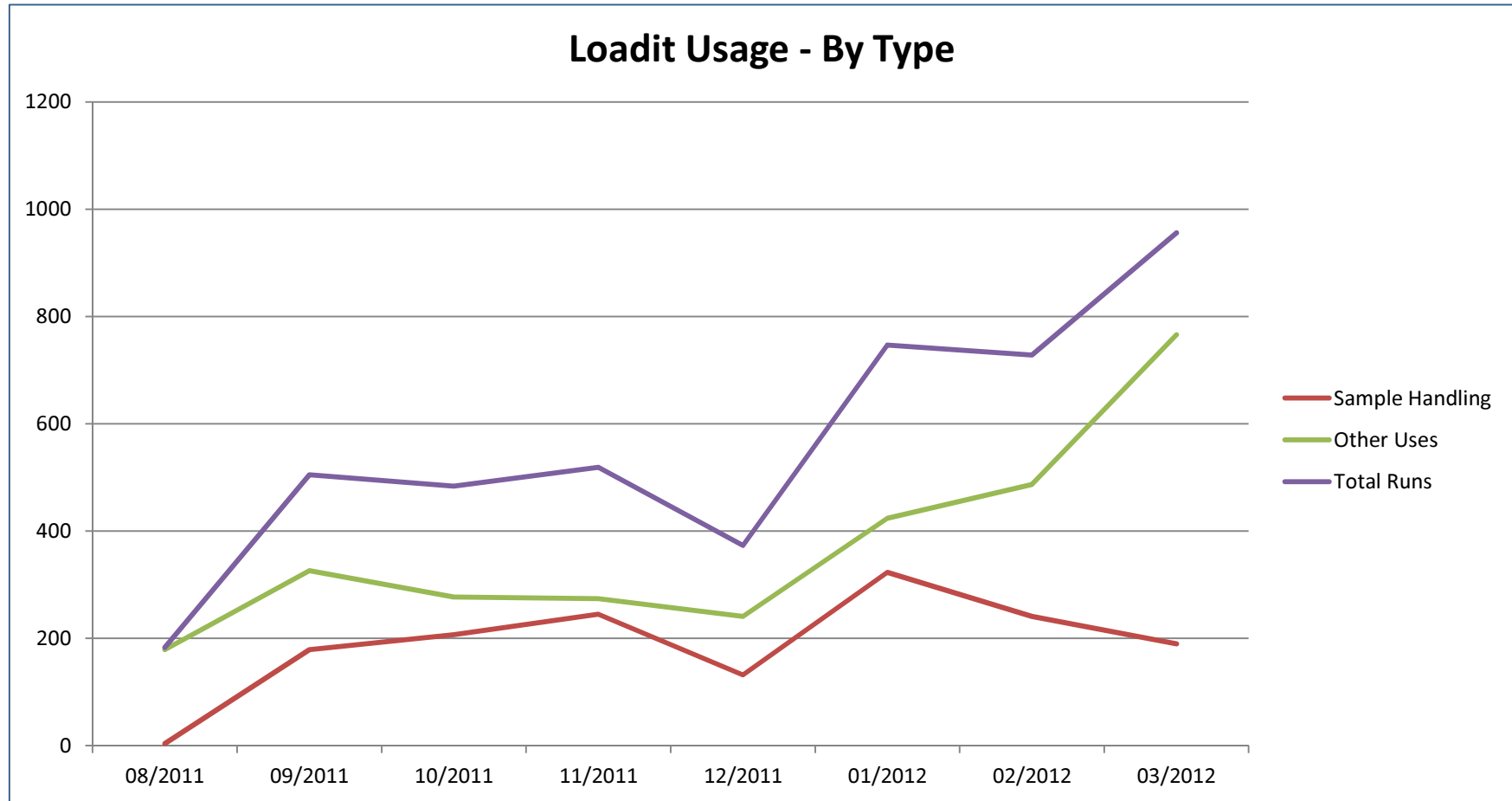
- Originally introduced for CATI sample processing
- Network Research handles in excess of 4m sample records a month

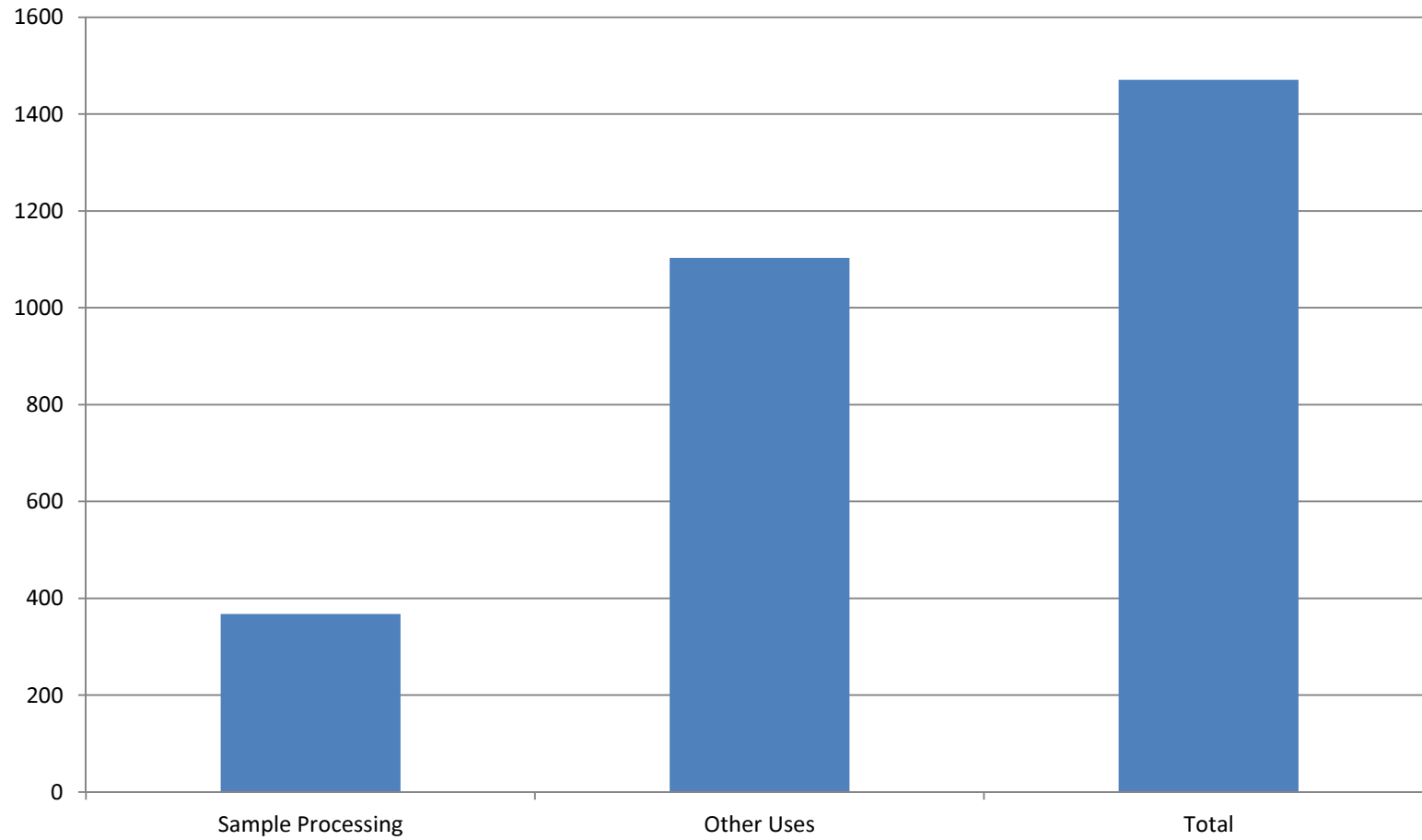














- Accept that you can't pre-empt everything
- Think about extensibility in any software development
- Promote extensibility over macros
- Look for willing enthusiasts to extend in partnership with IT
- Buy-in is higher when people have played a part
- Consider using an extensibility framework
- Isolate core application from extensions
- Document thoroughly



# Getting more value out of software through extensibility