Government agency saves $1 million with the help of Fujitsu software NetCOBOL.

The mission of the Washington State Department of Licensing (WADOL) is to ensure public safety and welfare in vehicle and driver services. In addition, it's responsible for the secure collection of over $3.4 billion in revenue annually. To support its daily operations, WADOL relied on a mature set of applications running on a Unisys 2200 mainframe.

These applications, developed over 30 years, were comprised of close to 1.5 million lines of COBOL code, accessed thousands of files, large databases (DMS and RDMS), and hundreds of user interface screens, and were controlled by over 50,000 lines of job control language (Unisys' ECL and SSG).

CLIENT
Washington State Department of Licensing (WADOL)

INDUSTRY
Government

CHALLENGE
Needed to update Unisys systems and convert 1.5 million lines of COBOL code to .NET platform

SOLUTION
GT Software Distributed
Fujitsu Software NetCOBOL

GTSoftware®
From legacy to leading edge.

CHALLENGE

WADOL's Unisys applications used a six-bit character set which limited the applications to all uppercase characters. WADOL knew it needed to improve its operations, but upgrading that proprietary Unisys environment to work with industry standard ASCII would involve an expensive transformation and increase costs by over $500K annually. Furthermore, internal and external analysts were warning WADOL that its operations could be at serious risk if it delayed a replacement/migration plan. Fortunately, migrating from its current Unisys platform would solve several of the challenges it currently needed to overcome, including:

- Its mainframe was expensive to maintain—more so than Unisys PC Configurations
- Usability, flexibility, and reporting were falling behind other platforms
- Independent Software Vendors stopped developing add-on tools for the platform
- Workarounds were cumbersome and created redundant work
- WADOL was anticipating a significant loss of Unisys expertise through retirement

SOLUTION

WADOL decided that the time had come to make the move from the Unisys mainframe to commodity hardware in the form of Windows-supporting computers. WADOL decided GT Software distributed Fujitsu Software NetCOBOL would give it the strongest technical feasibility, and hence the highest probability of success.

By using Fujitsu Software NetCOBOL, WADOL could maximize the use of its existing COBOL code, minimize changes, and consequently minimize risk. .NET was the target platform, and GT Software's NetCOBOL was the only COBOL compiler that actually produced .NET MSIL code and charged no runtime fees. The solution needed to:

- Migrate the remaining 35 Unisys based applications to Windows/SQL Server
- Use .NET-compliant COBOL or Visual Basic
- Perform the migration quickly with the lowest possible risk
- Allow user interfaces and reports to retain their format, style, and navigation
- Ensure all applications operated within an aggressive timeline

> "The beautiful part of the solution was the ability to take our current COBOL code, some of which is over 20 years old, and remove the screen and data interfaces and port that to Windows using Fujitsu Software NetCOBOL without changing any of the business logic."
>
> *-CIO, Washington State Department of Licensing*

GTSoftware®
From legacy to leading edge.

RESULTS

To execute all the details of the proposed solution, Fujitsu Consulting provided teams of consultants already familiar with the Unisys and .NET environments. The key advantages of Fujitsu's approach was:

- Minimize source code changes (COBOL to COBOL)
- Reduce risk by preserving investment in the business logic
- Use Fujitsu Software's NetCOBOL to generate native Microsoft.NET executables
- Simplify maintenance, with no need to deploy client side components
- Eliminate the need and cost to upgrade client hardware

The benefits were even more than what they had anticipated:

- Savings of over $1 million per year in hardware and software
- No runtime fees as charged by other vendors
- Less dependence on outside contractors
- Saved 3,000 hours of staff time annually
- Better systems integration, removing awkward workaround processes

> "By moving to this new platform, utilizing XML and Web Services we were able to interface with other platforms much more easily and cheaper than before."
>
> *-CIO, Washington State Department of Licensing*

Savings of over $1 million per year

Improved responsiveness to legislative changes

Less dependence on contractors

Eliminated need for specialty Unisys skills

No runtime fees

ABOUT

GT Software (www.gtsoftware.com) turns yesterday's legacy systems into tomorrow's leading edge applications. Its solutions help organizations extend the value of their IT investments through agile development and standards-based APIs, which improves workflow and enhances operational efficiency. Masters of application modernization and a global distributor of the Fujitsu NetCOBOL compiler, GT Software's proven solutions power mainframe integration with today's technologies. Currently, more than 2,500 organizations globally trust GT Software's solutions to ensure they are able to drive forward innovation that improves customer experiences, increases operational efficiency, and generates revenue.

GTSoftware®
From legacy to leading edge.