

RETAILER CUTS COSTS AND REDUCES BATCH PROCESSING TIME WITH NEO SUITE AND FUJITSU SOFTWARE NETCOBOL.

Headquartered in the United States, what began as a small health food store has today grown into a global icon in specialty health and nutrition products. Achieving impressive success over the years as a leader in herbal supplements, vitamins, minerals, diet products, and sports nutrition, the retailer now has over 8,000 locations and franchise operations globally.

With such an expansive footprint, the retailer sought a successful way to migrate off the mainframe while preserving existing applications. The business believed migration would support its long-term growth strategy to enhance its competitive position in the marketplace.



CLIENT

Health and Nutrition Product
Retailer



INDUSTRY

Retail



CHALLENGE

Needed to migrate the mainframe
to streamline operations and cut costs



SOLUTION

GT Software's
NeoSuite



Fujitsu Software NetCOBOL

CHALLENGE

With an eight-decade history, the health and nutrition retailer had amassed a significant amount of legacy data. Its system, which was an IBM Mainframe, utilizing z/OS 1.10, DB2 8.1 and CICS TS 3.2, consisted of more than 2,300 batch COBOL, 1,500 online and 30 assembler programs. The company's batch application system included more than 3,600 JCL batch streams and 16,000 GDG files. Overall, 12,000 tapes were stored in inventory.

The business realized it needed to select a migration tool that would not compromise this critical data, all while achieving the goal of improving its competitive position in the marketplace. In addition, a primary driver for migrating to a more flexible, agile platform was to cut costs and improve performance. *"As we continue to grow, it's crucial to protect our investment in legacy data, while preparing to handle increasing operations worldwide. To help us retain a competitive position, we needed to move to a platform that would grow with us, and GT Software was the best choice for getting us there,"* said the Migration Product Lead.

SOLUTION

The health and nutrition retailer decided that GT Software was the perfect company to help in the migration process. GT Software's Neo Suite, which includes NeoKicks®, NeoBatch® and NeoData®, were used to make the migration seamless and low-risk. Fujitsu Software NetCOBOL for .NET® was also utilized for the project, as GT Software is the distributor for the vendor's NetCOBOL offerings outside of Japan.

The decision to select GT Software's Neo Suite was a wise one, as it generally provides users cost savings that average between 60 to 80 percent, all while improving performance. NeoBatch helped the retailer cut their batch-processing time in half. NeoKicks was used to convert CICS BMS maps and associated COBOL programs to ASP.NET pages to preserve the business logic and look of the original mainframe applications. The combination of these tools and NetCOBOL for .NET enabled the retailer to protect, convert, and efficiently migrate their legacy data off of the mainframe.



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-Migration Product Lead

RESULTS

The client benefited greatly from GT Software's products, experiencing results that exceeded project expectations, including:

- 50% reduction in required batch-processing time
- Increased operational agility working in a .NET environment
- Integration of legacy COBOL applications and modern programming languages

No new tool is worth much if it is a challenge for users. Another advantage of working with GT Software is the ease of use of its products and solutions. The client's staff members received valuable instruction on the application and system requirements of each product. As a result, the IT department was able to support the company's high performing infrastructure. *"With GT Software's products, migration to .NET was seamless and efficient. We are pleased with the cost savings and 50% reduction in batch processing time. As an added bonus, we've also been able to conserve energy!"*

Remaining stagnant is a surefire way for any successful brand to lose ground in highly competitive markets. Now that the company has successfully transitioned to a more flexible platform, it has the resources in place and strategy it needs to remain a global leader in its field for years to come.

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-Migration Product Lead



Increased agility with .Net



50% reduction in batch processing time



Greater flexibility and cost savings

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.



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