

Ivory CASE STUDY

GT Software helps Dutch Government Agency, synchronize registry systems with SAP and reduce total cost of ownership



A Dutch government agency, collects information about registered properties in the Netherlands and maintains the records in public registers and cadastral maps. This government agency is charged with not only keeping this information but also ensuring it is readily available to businesses, members of the public and to other interested parties. So providing accessibility and order to the registered properties, which include houses, apartments, ships and aircrafts is of utmost importance.

To keep up with standards and protocol, the company needed to modernize and extend the capabilities of its aging legacy mainframe system. The goal was to integrate information from its 30-year-old registry system into a new one, and synchronize the data by implementing SAP Process Integration software as an enterprise service bus (ESB).

CHALLENGE

Aging technology equates to high cost and skills shortage

Originally developed between 1978 and 1982, the Dutch government agency maintained its information and records in a property surveying registration system in a mainframe environment based on COBOL, CA-IDMS/DC and CA-IDMS/DB database systems. *“Based on the kind of work we do, it is crucial that we protect our legacy investment so we can continue to provide records and maps to the public,”* explained the project lead.

The cadastral registration application was primarily used for updates, where information was retrieved by a web interface based on screen scraping. Although the Dutch government agency had explored several solutions based on screen scraping, they were never 100 percent reliable due to several “tricks” used during development.

Because the Dutch government agency’s financial system is based on SAP, they also have access to the SAP Netweaver environment and the SAP Process Integrator (PI) as an enterprise service bus. Therefore, integrating its current system with SAP was an effective solution for the organization.

CLIENT

Dutch Government Agency

INDUSTRY

Land Mapping and Registering Agency

HQ

Netherlands

CHALLENGE

Needed to update aging mainframe system

SOLUTIONS

GT Software’s Integration & Orchestration
GT Software’s Ivory® Service Architect™

“Based on the kind of work we do, it is crucial that we protect our legacy investment so we can continue to provide records and maps to the public.”

- Project Lead

SOLUTION

Pilot proves valuable insight into a seamless, integrated future

The objectives of the project were to:

- Lower the total cost of ownership
- Phase out reliance on COBOL/IDMS applications
- Reduce dependency on multiple development platforms

Though the mainframe was still working from a technical and functional perspective, there was a shortage of skills in the workforce with a deep understanding of the mainframe, which was a concern regarding the longevity of the system. In the Netherlands, as it is globally, those who are most experienced and knowledgeable about the mainframe are reaching the age of retirement. Therefore, the Dutch government agency started looking for an integration solution that would support an incremental migration, moving over time towards an HP-UX platform.

“We wanted to see that it was possible to synchronize data between the old registry system and the new system using a trigger mechanism in COBOL programs, so they opted to launch a pilot project,” said the managing director for Systemation, GT Software’s representative in the Benelux countries.

RESULTS

GT Software’s Integration & Orchestration Solution, featuring Ivory Service Architect, could seamlessly integrate SAP and the legacy system allowing the Dutch government agency’s programs to call out to SAP using the callable services capability. In addition, updates were also sent on parcels to the UNIX environment. The solution made it possible to send real-time updates to SAP as they occurred in the mainframe environment.

In addition, Integration & Orchestration made it possible for COBOL batch programs to call SAP and invoke SAP functions. The pilot program netted great results, and the organization subsequently migrated all of its enterprise systems to the HP-UX platform using Java and Oracle solutions.

Working together, the teams from GT Software, Systemation, and T-Systems united to install the new system, deploying within weeks what would have possibly taken years if having to re-write code.

GT Software’s Ivory Service Architect has allowed the Dutch government agency to synchronize data between systems, leading to:

- Reduced total cost of ownership
- Eliminated risk due to reliance on COBOL/IDMS applications
- Decreased the number of development platforms
- Easily integrated the legacy system and existing SAP platform

By migrating to the HP-UX platform, the Dutch government agency is prepared for the future with a platform that can support its ever-growing data about the land and property in the Netherlands.



Easy integration between legacy system and SAP



Lower TCO



No longer rely on COBOL/IDMS applications



Reduction in the number of development platforms

“*We wanted to see that it was possible to synchronize data between the old registry system and the new system using a trigger mechanism in COBOL programs, so they opted to launch a pilot project.*”

-Managing Director, Systemation

For over 30 years, GT Software has helped enterprise organizations unify business information across platforms, data formats and programming languages — including the “hard to access” mainframe. More than 2,500 organizations across the globe trust GT Software to help them improve business intelligence, workforce productivity and customer experience.