



Government Agency Selects NetCOBOL to convert 1.5 million lines of 20 year old code into \$1 million in cost savings.

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 is 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).

CHALLENGE

1.5 million lines of old code and old technology, pose risk

WADOL's Unisys applications were proprietary six-bit character set which limited the applications to all uppercase characters. WADOL knew it needed to improve its operations, but switching to 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. Even more encouraging, 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.

CLIENT

WADOL

Washington State Department of Licensing

INDUSTRY

Government

HQ

United States

CHALLENGE

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

SOLUTION

Fujitsu NetCOBOL

Distributed by GT Software

“ 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 NetCOBOL without changing any of the business logic. ”

CIO, Washington State
Department of Licensing

SOLUTION

Mainframe migration to .NET with NetCOBOL

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. Although not the cheapest of the six proposals considered in the final decision round, WADOL decided GT Software's NetCOBOL would give it the strongest technical feasibility, and hence the highest probability of success.

By using 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 risk possible.
- Allow user interfaces and reports to retain their format, style and navigation.
- Ensure all applications operated within an aggressive timeline.

RESULTS

\$1 million annual savings and operational improvements

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 NetCOBOL and Fujitsu's approach were to:

- Minimize source code changes (COBOL to COBOL).
- Reduce risk by preserving investment in the business logic.
- Use Fujitsu'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.

Benefits were more than 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.



Savings of over
\$1 million per year



Eliminated need for
specialty Unisys skills



Improved responsiveness to
legislative changes



Less dependence
on Contractors



No runtime fees

“By moving to this new platform, utilizing XML and Web Services we were able to interface with other platforms much much easier and cheaper than before.”

CIO, Washington State
Department of Licensing

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.