

Cologne Chamber of Commerce & Industry

"Modernizing our BS2000 has been risk-free, smooth and we have achieved our goals. We significantly lowered our license and maintenance costs...and are now future-proof."

— Mr. Thomas Kirchrath, IT Director, IHK Cologne

Customer Profile

The Cologne Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Industrie und Handelskammer, IHK) is a public organization whose mission is to integrate local and international businesses and organizations. Its goal is to support the generation of trade to and from the greater Cologne region. Local businesses are automatic members and can access a major archive and network of resources on a local, national and international level, to help them develop their business. State education and training exam boards are hosted by the IHK and measures are used to align regional skill sets with market requirements.

Business Situation

IHK had a stable IT system but needed to reduce license and maintenance costs, create a homogeneous environment and achieve greater flexibility for further development as market needs evolved.

Value to Business

IHK accomplished the rehosting of their BS2000 system on a leaner, more agile Windows 2008 platform with minimal operational disruption and no functional change to their application.

Overview

Faced with the two-pronged challenge of trimming its IT operating expenses while expanding its IT services to deal with growing business complexity, the IHK management team needed to modernize the BS2000 mainframe. It was important that they retain the full functionality of their custom-built ERP application, IBBIS, and maintain the stability, reliability and availability of the BS2000.

IT executives turned these needs into detailed requirement specifications that addressed hardware, operating and database management systems, while taking into consideration future expansion forecasts. Microsoft Windows 2008 was selected as the target platform, with Microsoft SQL Server 2008 as the database management system.

Initial projections indicated that they could recoup the cost of a rehosting project within an incredible eight months, with executives expecting to save more than 60% per month in licensing, maintenance and energy. They were also looking forward to improved productivity from their development teams and to establishing stronger ties with client organizations.

Challenges: 5,000 Concurrent Users

The IHK IT director, Thomas Kirchrath, explained that "the IHK data center is accessed by approximately 700 concurrent internal users using a custom-built ERP system to conduct a myriad of

transactions, all the while accessing, exchanging and archiving information in real time as well as supporting a very comprehensive web presence." Moreover, six other Chambers of Commerce organizations outsource their IT operations to IHK so it is estimated that approximately 5,000 users perform transactions concurrently.

Mr. Kirchrath added, "The degree of stability in the BS2000 is the benchmark and this must be guaranteed."

Drivers: Reduce Monthly Costs

The onset of the global economic crisis bought with it unprecedented cost-cutting activities, but IHR always wanted to maximize the potential of their assets. Unlike the economic crisis, this mindset of using their assets to their fullest was here to stay.

The main driver for the IHK modernization project was the prohibitive monthly cost of operations. As is often the case with the BS2000, these costs are based upon the ability or power of the system to compute a massive amount of transactions in real time. In layman terms, the costs are relative to the system's horsepower.

Conversely, modern operation systems and applications are leaner and more efficient and do not require the same amount of computational power.

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The logical and feasible approach was to use the XFRAME® rehosting software suite from HTWC to move the IHK applications onto the Windows 2008 operating system, which uses 75% of the computational power, thus lowering costs correspondingly.

Additionally, through the use of the application compiler, the IBBIS application was moved to a more efficient development environment, enabling application expansion and the integration of “off the shelf” applications.

The scope of the project involved rehosting the following application assets, all with minimum modification: 481 COBOL programs, 335 copybooks, 71 LEASY files, 285 enter jobs and 575 procedures.

After the rehosting project, Mr. Kirchrath concluded, “Our working system has not been changed, it is just leaner and more agile and at no stage was there any danger that previous stability would be compromised.”

Stepping into the Future

The custom-built IBBIS ERP system was developed by IHK based on BS2000 architecture. The one-to-one seamless rehosting of this application on a leaner and more open environment was the key objective of this project. The project goal was the emulation of IBBIS from a FSC BS2000/OSD environment to Windows Server 2008 on Unisys ES7000 hardware. Following a review of the software elements used in the IBBIS system, the XFRAME suite of applications was used to migrate the legacy application to the new environment.

XFRAME is a completely scalable, reliable and highly automated solution that runs programs written in COBOL, EASYTRIEVE, PL/1 and C languages in a Windows

environment. It contains a transaction server to execute CICS and IMS/DC applications and a complete batch environment to run mainframe batch processes from BS2000 systems.

The HTWC conversion software, VSAM 2 Relational®, was used to convert the LEASY ISAM hierarchical database system to the SQL Server RDBMS on which IBBIS now operates.

The Single Source Management component, HOST2WIN, was used to enable both batch and online applications to run on the Windows environment, requiring very little code modification. In this way, only a short “code freeze” of 2-3 days was required.

Customer Benefits:

The original goals of the project were achieved without risk and within the expected timeframe and budget, resulting in the following benefits:

- Major reduction in IT operating expenses
- Homogeneous and easier to manage infrastructure
- Easier future development and integration of “turn-key” solutions
- Retention of previous stability and customer satisfaction
- No change to applications or workflow
- 100% leverage of previous application investment

About Speedware

Speedware has been dedicated to helping companies modernize their business applications for over 15 years and enjoys a 100% project success rate. The company specializes in developing end-to-end modernization solutions that allow industry and government leaders to increase their business agility and reduce their operational costs. Speedware has been a leading provider of enterprise software solutions since 1976, offering a complete suite of legacy modernization, migration and application portfolio management solutions, business intelligence tools and application development solutions.

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