

Success Story

MAINFRAME MIGRATION WAS MORE VIABLE THAN PREVIOUS JAVA REWRITES THAT WERE COSTLY, LENGTHY, AND NEVER BEEN COMPLETED

KEY METRICS

- 8,788 Cobol Programs
- 10,000 jobs migrated

TARGET ENVIRONMENT

- IBM AIX
- IBM DB2 Database
- ORACLE Tuxedo
- ORACLE Weblogic
- Micro Focus Cobol

BENEFITS

- Annual OPEX Savings in millions of kronor order-of-magnitude for software fees alone
- Reduce case handling processing time and cost by a factor of 2
- Enabled 24x7 self-services to the Swedish population
- Work time savings by discontinuing the mainframe arrangement and by utilizing existing skills to operate and manage the administration of social security
- Improved performance

The Modernization of the Social Insurance in Sweden has meant migrating mainframe applications to increase flexibility, automation, and efficiency

For almost a decade, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, Försäkringskassan is undergoing major changes. Information Technology (IT) has been regarded as both as a path towards a more efficient administration and a solution to accelerate the change. As part of these changes, the agency had to improve customer satisfaction, reduce case handling processing time and cost, and provide the Swedish population with 24x7 self-services.

60% of Försäkringskassan's health and the social benefits applications were running on a large mainframe. The technology was technically outdated with 3270 green screens and not suited to support the change. Computer maker Bull was also stopping the technical support by 2010, and the knowledgeable staff was going to retire by 2010.

Although the decision to disengage from the mainframe wasn't new, previous Java redevelopment attempts have proven to be far too expensive and never became a valid option. It became obvious for the organization that a 1:1 straight conversion from Cobol on GCOS to Cobol on Unix will be the fastest and cheapest way out.

The migration project, called Phoenix, was initiated in September 2006 and Accenture was selected to coordinate and manage the project. Phoenix was the largest migration Försäkringskassan has gone through, with critical potential impacts at the economical and political levels.

Metaware's refine made the difference

A major issue to plan the effort for the migration and the maintenance continuity was the lack of documentation on the legacy system. This was compounded by the sheer size of the portfolio (almost 10,000 programs) and the wide variety of codes that were increasing uncertain without the ability to run an in-depth analysis of the source code. Metaware's Refine has demonstrated its strength delivering asset inventory and analysis irrespective of volumes and complexity. It reduced the labor-intensive tasks associated with software knowledge recovery, and provided code cleansing capabilities. The end result was:

- Lowered customer effort spent in the project
- Rapid optimization of the scope to migrate resulting in less migration cost
- Clear insight into the portfolio and the components effectively used reducing the risk raised by lack of application knowledge

A project meeting deadlines

The venerable mainframe hosting applications since the 1970s was retired on November 2009, and the applications handling health and the social benefits for the Swedish population and the 300 branches went into production on a new, state-of-the-art, and agile IT platform.

Metaware has been instrumental to securely migrate 6 million lines of code, without relying on any rewriting or replacing piece of code.

"During the project, Metaware has always demonstrated its commitment to make this the project a success", said Stefan Olowson, Director, Information Technology.

A Target Architecture designed for high throughput and availability

The migration allows a smooth transition to a modern architecture, bringing in newer technology supporting both COBOL and Java, improving integration capabilities, openness, and interchangeability.

One of the mainframe advantages is that it is optimized to process huge amounts of calculations without losing performance. To reach the same level of throughput, availability and scalability, Försäkringskassan has implemented a target architecture relying on Oracle Tuxedo transaction monitor as well as IBM DB2 database.

The system has been regression and performance tested to process accurate calculations under any circumstances and meet performance requirements.

"Metaware has always demonstrated its commitment to make this the project a success."

Stefan Olowsson, Försäkringskassan, IT Director

ABOUT METAWARE

Metaware is a leading provider of solutions allowing for IT costs savings and the digital transformation of proprietary technology, with a focus on mainframes.

Drawing on 20 years of innovation and 200+ successful projects completed across Fortune 1000 organizations, Metaware delivers the most comprehensive and automated solutions for the rapid replacement and deployment of lower cost technology.

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