

HRM showcases migration from HP e3000 to Windows/Intel



Particularly for small organizations, MS-Windows on the Intel platform is a cost-effective migration option. We rely on a hands-on methodology that works – and that gives our customers added value.

- Hans Rudolf Mathieu, CEO, HR Mathieu Software AG, Fislisbach, Switzerland

In-depth migration experience

HR Mathieu Software AG (HRM) specializes in the development and provisioning of accounting and case handling applications for compensation offices of the Swiss social insurance. While some of its larger customers run their own servers, smaller customer organizations tend to rely on HRM's Application Service Provider offering. HRM has recently migrated the applications and databases of one of its public-sector customers from HP e3000 plus MPE to an Intel based server running MS-Windows. More than ten similar migrations are either ongoing or scheduled to be completed well before the termination of HP's official system support.

Stage 1: GUI

"Generating the Windows GUI was a highly complex task that required a considerable amount of effort. A few years ago, when our applications were running predominantly on the HP e3000, we implemented Visual Basic clients on standard PCs by means of Middleman from Minisoft. The utility we used for this purpose was VB-View from Robust Systems Inc. VB-View provides a true Windows front-end for HP e3000 Vplus applications. When it comes to generating a Windows GUI for HP e3000 based applications, VB-View saves a lot of time and effort," notes Hans Rudolf Mathieu, CEO, HRM Software AG.

Stage 2: database

Bolli & Partner GmbH provided hands-on support to the HRM migration team during the data transfer. The tool of choice for the data transfer from HP Turbolmage to Oracle was ti2SQL from ORDAT (Giessen, Germany). ti2SQL also serves to adapt the database access methodology from HP Turbolmage and SQL to Oracle. It also enables the support of different RDBMS like SQL Server without any code changes.

Stage 3: compiler

"After we had spent six months using a third-party compiler that failed to deliver on our expectations, we switched to MicroFocus. The MicroFocus compiler delivered the right results in merely one month. In collaboration with MicroFocus, we developed a preprocessor which converts all HP e3000 specific Cobol entities to items that are easy to 'digest.' This was necessary because HP Cobol includes a number of proprietary extensions that go beyond the Cobol standard," recalls Hans Rudolf Mathieu.

Application maintenance in both worlds

"Maintaining applications on HP e3000 with MPE platform and on the Windows platforms at the same time may sound like hard work. It isn't when you use Whisper Programmer Studio, an integrated visual development environment from Whisper Technology for UNIX and MPE programmers. It can even handle HP e3000 libraries as well as Java and Cobol code. We can easily create our own definition files in XML," says Hans Rudolf Mathieu.

"Our customers can count on our commitment of HP e3000 support until the end of 2006. The last HP e3000 based customer installation is scheduled for migration by the middle of 2006."

Xprint/HE – delivering added value through output management

"A successful migration should give the customer more than just the same or similar functionality on a different platform. Customers expect visible benefits. That's why we developed Xprint/HE, a print and document management solution that runs on Windows. Xprint/HE generates Crystal Reports which can be used to create PDF, HTML, or paper documents. Adding value to the migration, this utility is very well received by our clientele."

Migration components – overview

Graphical User Interface	Robust Systems VB-View and Minisoft Middleman
Database	Oracle and SQL
Image wrapper	ORDAT ii2SQL
Compiler	MicroFocus Cobol compiler
Application maintenance	Whisper Programmer Studio
Added value	HRM Xprint/HE output management

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