

CA-Telon Conversion - ASR

With almost 4,000 business critical programs running on the mainframe, developed using CA-Telon, this Dutch insurance group were incurring major licencing costs every year just to keep the business running. They sought a way to keep the existing programs but reduce the cost of maintaining them by use of an alternative, modern, application development environment. They chose Casegen Enterprise from migration specialists, TSG Software.

About ASR

ASR is one of the largest insurers in The Netherlands, with 4,600 employees and revenue of €4.5 billion in 2011. They provide private and business clients with a range of insurance products including pensions, life, non-life, health and disability insurance. They also offer services in the mortgage and banking sectors through a number of associated brands, and are active in real estate.

Problem

- High Licence cost of CA-Telon
- Business critical processes reliant on CA-Telon

Solution

- Migration of CA-Telon code into Casegen Enterprise

Benefits

- Removal of CA-Telon licencing costs
- Use of existing developers

THE PROBLEM

The day to day operation of the insurance giant was still hugely reliant on a number of legacy mainframe systems that had been developed in CA-Telon. Due to the high licence fees associated with the CA-Telon environment, including run-time elements, ASR were being forced to invest large sums each year just to keep the CA-Telon developed systems, and hence the business, running.

ASR knew that the contract renewal date for CA-Telon was approaching in September 2012. Since the replacement of all ASR's programs (including non CA-Telon developed programs) was not a viable option for the business at that time, they chose to convert the CA-Telon programs to Casegen Enterprise, where there are no ongoing licencing costs.

THE SOLUTION

With over 25 years' experience in managing complex conversions and migrations of a similar nature, TSG Software were able to provide ASR with a number of options to address the licence cost issue. They could have either converted the CA-Telon code into run-time free COBOL or PLI, or developed replacement versions of CA-Telon run-time modules, or migrated the CA-Telon code into Casegen Enterprise, or a combination of all three.

The solution that was most suitable for ASR was to migrate the CA-Telon code into Casegen Enterprise. This allowed ASR to perform the migration quickly, independently of other (non CA-Telon developed) applications, and – importantly – to allow the migration to be performed by existing developers who had been working with CA-Telon for, in some cases, more than 10 years.

The familiarity of the Casegen Enterprise architecture meant that the developers were able to use the product well after only a few short training sessions. Additionally, ASR were able to test the migration on a small number of programs before the full scale migration, allowing the developers to see the quality and

compatibility of the tool and further gain confidence in its suitability before fully committing resource to the project.

THE OUTCOME

Within nine months all the programs had been converted, tested and brought into the production environment. The successful conversion resulted in retiring the CA-Telon contract on the contract finish date. ASR report that the CA-Telon conversion, along with the removal of a number of other mainframe technologies, would result in a substantial saving each year.

ASR have stated that they are very confident with the quality of the conversion and the support during the testing and go live. Project manager Jeroen Gerritsen comments;

“With more than 100 colleagues involved during the whole project and around 35 phased Go Live dates, gives an indication about the complexity and size of this conversion. But we managed it within the planning, budget and functional criteria we had set. A great performance that only could have been achieved with the great spirit of some internal developers and the good support during the whole project by the Casegen consultants.”

IN SUMMARY

ASR, one of the Netherlands' biggest insurance companies, was able to make substantial savings in licencing fees by migrating almost 4,000 programs away from CA-Telon and over to Casegen Enterprise. By doing so they have kept business critical processes running at a fraction of the cost, in a process that imposed minimal impact on the business. All of this was achieved by utilising the existing pool of developers.

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