

## PLATFORM OPTIMIZATION SUPPORTS EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND REMARKABLE COST SAVINGS

### Challenge

Achieve technological leadership through innovation and price/performance in Florida State College's IT infrastructure. Furthermore, leverage the inherent long-term benefits of a Service-oriented Architecture to meet the College's needs for today and the future.

### Solution

Migration of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Student Information systems operating on an IBM VM/VSE mainframe to the Sun Solaris UNIX environment. Software AG's Global Consulting Services team helped to implement and manage the migration project. Software AG's Adabas and Natural products for UNIX and its Global Consulting Services team provided dedicated expertise in conversion and migration, in-depth knowledge of tools and technologies, migration best practices and methodologies, and familiarity with Florida State College's environment and people, to work hand-in-hand with the College Technology Team.

### Benefits

- Cost savings which exceed \$1.0 million annually
- Five year Return on Investment (ROI) of 39.76%
- Application performance increases of up to 40%
- Migration project delivered on time and within budget with little to no impact on students, faculty or staff



Florida State College at Jacksonville, one of the largest baccalaureate colleges in the U.S., serves more than 73,000 students a year. It has the largest workforce development program, IT curriculum and distance learning programs in Florida. Florida State College at Jacksonville is also the largest provider of undergraduate education to the U.S. Navy. The college ranked first in the annual survey of Digital Community Colleges by the Center for Digital Education and the American Association of Community Colleges. In 2008, Florida State College at Jacksonville also was recognized by the Computerworld Honors Program and received a Best Practices award from KMWorld ([www.kmworld.com](http://www.kmworld.com)).

Get There Faster.™



**“As anticipated, Software AG was professional and delivered the Migration Services we needed. It is a first-class company to deal with in every respect. Our migration project was an overwhelming success. We met our core architecture and vision requirements, fulfilled our functionality requirements, and met our financial objectives, a true hat-trick.”**

Dr. Rob Rennie | College Vice President and CIO | Florida State College at Jacksonville

## Achieving technological leadership

To strengthen its educational focus and successfully serve the community, Florida

State College established two key goals:

- to prepare students for distinctive success in the global information age and
- to optimize access to and participation in college programs.

In support of these goals, the College’s Technology Team adheres to the standards-based development and integration principles espoused within a Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) that allow forward-looking organizations to build composite e-business applications. Dr. Rennie’s team began with an in-depth review of the College’s existing IT applications and system infrastructure. Their review resulted in several recommendations—hardware and/or software upgrades, migration to more cost-effective architectures/platforms, and system re-engineering or re-writing, if necessary. These recommendations were developed to drive improvements in the flexibility, scalability and price/performance of their IT infrastructure.

## Migrating the ORION ERP and Student Information System

The first strategic system evaluated for migration was the College’s Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. While ORION operated in the IBM VM/VSE mainframe environment, the College’s important instructional software, the Learning Management System, ran on Sun Solaris UNIX boxes. Dr. Rennie and his team quickly determined that, with its high operating system license fees, the IBM mainframe was more costly to operate and maintain than the Sun UNIX boxes. Additional challenges with operation of the IBM mainframe included:

- Time-intensive, nightly batch processes affected availability of Web sites and underlying applications
- Several Web-based user interfaces could not be improved effectively
- Continuing support for multiple operating system platforms would increase IT costs

Dr. Rennie’s Team reviewed options such as consolidating the College’s Learning Management System and related technologies on the mainframe or replacing or outsourcing the ORION ERP system. It was evident, however, that these options were not viable—they provided poor cost benefit analysis results and/or incompatibility with the mandate to build an open systems architecture based on SOA principles. Financial analysis results for migrating ORION to the UNIX environment quickly proved it to be the most cost-effective solution.

## Leveraging a Service-Oriented Architecture

Migrating ORION involved converting the underlying Natural and Adabas environments from VM/VSE to the Sun Solaris UNIX environment. Migration also involved some changes in the ORION applications and the elimination of Job Control Language (JCL) through the creation of stored procedures. Utilizing SOA principles to build applications allows functionality to be treated as reusable services, providing the ability to link disparate systems together for greater flexibility to meet the current and future needs of customers. Migration would also allow Florida State College to rehost its current Web interface, ARTEMIS, developed with Software AG’s webMethods EntireX, on the Sun UNIX boxes. The Technology Team could now extend this user interface with a complete set of Web services.

## Partnering with Software AG'S Migration Services

While migration was clearly the best approach toward the vision of technological leadership supporting education goals, Dr. Rennie knew his IT team did not contain the complete mix of technical expertise to accomplish this goal. After reviewing several outside solutions, the College turned to Software AG and its Migration Services—a combination of product, technology and Global Consulting Services—to lead the project. "Software AG has been a strategic partner of ours for some time; they have proven they can deliver on time, with high quality, and in a cost-effective manner," asserts Dr. Rennie. "Their professionals have dedicated expertise in VSE-to-UNIX conversion/migration project management, they have expertise in today's modern tools and technologies, and they were very familiar with our environment and people. The Software AG Global Consulting Services team we work with, and their leadership, is first class, all the way up to the CEO. They are one of the few companies that we have really been able to count on time after time. With Software AG at our side, we successfully met our goals and objectives."

## Supporting a variety of users

Through the more fully featured Web-based student portal system ARTEMIS, about 65,000 unique users regularly access ORION II. This equates to approximately 200 to 300 concurrent active users at any time accessing via student kiosks and Web interfaces. All former students, in the millions, access their historical academic records through ARTEMIS, ultimately relying on information from ORION II. The system also supports those who access the College's Web site for general information. Through ARTEMIS and the underlying ORION II ERP system, student services like registration and selection of schedules and classes are tied directly to billing, credit and collections, budgeting, personnel and faculty resources, and facilities requirements as well as the Technology Team's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and personalization initiatives, supporting a true e-commerce based system.

## KEY COMPONENTS

ORION, the College's ERP system, was written using **Natural**.

**Adabas** houses all the ORION data, which includes Financial, Human Resource, Payroll, Property Control/Inventory, Scheduling, and other traditional ERP functions as well as a Student Information System.

**webMethods EntireX** was used to develop ARTEMIS, the College's Web portal.

Software AG **Global Consulting Services** helped write the College's original ERP system for the mainframe and won the competitive bid to migrate that system to UNIX.

Take the next step to get there – faster.

#### ABOUT SOFTWARE AG

Software AG's 4,000 global customers use our software to improve business processes and drive an agile IT infrastructure. Our customers' goals are to reduce costs and increase flexibility and efficiency. We help them do this by optimizing and governing their operations and aligning IT with the business goals.

Our leading Business Infrastructure Software portfolio is used for data and system integration and modernization. It fosters new levels of IT agility through SOA and allows the rapid creation of new business processes with BPM.

Our forty-year history of success ensures our customers have a reliable platform for driving future business results – faster.

#### Software AG – Get There Faster

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