

GLOBAL INTEGRATION BACKBONE FOR STRATEGIC BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Challenge

The business processes of Unisys involve millions of transactions with customers and partners across the world. This high transaction volume, combined with numerous custom solutions and paper-based procedures, threatened to make Unisys' business processes complicated and unmanageable. If not addressed, the combination could lead to high support costs for maintaining and managing Unisys infrastructure and services.

Solution

Unisys sought diverse capabilities when selecting an integration solution that would serve as a global backbone to solve a range of business problems. The webMethods product suite offered broad standards and platform support along with powerful application integration capabilities. These traits along with the robust security features, easy administration and support, made a very compelling case and convinced Unisys to choose the webMethods technology.

Benefits

Unisys has benefited from a highly secure, reliable and standards-based environment for its communications and the ability to automate and integrate its key business processes, carry out its financial business without losing a single transaction, and reduce costs. In addition, Unisys and its vendors have better control of operations with access to accurate information. Tasks that used to take a week to complete are now accomplished in a matter of hours.

 UNISYS

Unisys is a worldwide information technology services and solutions company, combining expertise in consulting, systems integration, outsourcing, infrastructure and server technology with precision thinking and relentless execution. Unisys helps clients use information to create efficient, secure business operations that allow them to achieve their business goals.

Get there faster.™

“Today, time is of the essence and by establishing direct connections between our systems, tasks that used to take a week to complete are now accomplished in a matter of hours. Unisys and our vendors have better control of our operations and have access to accurate information when we need it.”

Neil Kevles | Application Integration Technologies Manager | Unisys

Internet integration cluster to support multiple business initiatives

With more than 30 initiatives outlined, Unisys created an Internet Integration Cluster (IIC) powered by the webMethods product suite to provide repeatable, cost-effective delivery of product and service information and improve global interactions with partners and customers.

“The integration solution was going to be the foundation for many of our operations today and in the future,” said Neil Kevles, Application Integration Technologies Manager at Unisys. “We needed a solution that could support us in the long run and webMethods was a great fit.”

Streamlining critical financial operations

Like any large global organization, Unisys aimed to conduct its critical financial operations smoothly, while constantly finding new ways to cut costs. The IIC, powered by the webMethods product suite, enables efficient operations between Unisys and its trading partners in many areas including accounts payable, accounts receivable and cash flow between commercial banks.

“As the company became a larger global entity, we simply had to automate, integrate and improve all our key processes,” said Kevles. “We were convinced that a cohesive integration effort would be a very worthwhile investment for us to enhance efficiencies for our global operations.”

One critical project involves supporting financial enablement by transmitting EDI documents via the webMethods product suite to disbursement banks used by Unisys, containing Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) payments for its suppliers. Remittance advices are also directly sent to suppliers, in any format they require, informing them of payments.

According to Kevles, by using the webMethods integration solution, Unisys is doing more than 11 million transactions per month with its banks, amounting to \$15-30 million. Most notably, Unisys has benefited from a highly secure, reliable and standards-based environment for its communications and the ability to carry out business without losing a single transaction.

“When dealing with critical transactions of such high monetary value, we cannot afford to have a single lost or stuck transaction,” said Kevles. “The webMethods product suite enables us to accomplish these transactions transparently, securely and cost effectively, while simplifying the process for our banks and customers to work with us. We are equipped with a solid infrastructure to enable us to rapidly adapt to the changing needs of our customers.”

Operational efficiency and visibility for vendor managed inventory

Unisys has also embarked on a project to streamline its Vendor-Managed Inventory (VMI) process, allowing its primary vendors to have better visibility into purchase orders, product returns and product replacements.

Using webMethods product suite, Unisys more effectively communicates and coordinates with its vendors through integration between the vendors’ packaged applications systems and homegrown systems at Unisys. Manual data entry is minimized for both parties and the information synchronized across systems provides vendors with real-time information and visibility into Unisys orders and returns. webMethods product suite also enables report generation on product usage and returns on a monthly basis. Kevles mentions that by eliminating manual intervention, Unisys vendors also enjoy cost efficiencies and have passed these savings back to Unisys.

“We have already started to see efficiencies in our transactions and reduced costs of operation with our vendors,” said Kevles. “Today, time is of the essence and by establishing direct connections between our systems, tasks that used to take a week to complete are now accomplished in a matter of hours. Unisys and our vendors have better control of our operations and have access to accurate information when we need it.”

KEY COMPONENTS

webMethods Product Suite

The webMethods product suite provides Unisys with comprehensive integration capabilities and the ability to standardize and improve their business transaction efficiencies.

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