



APPLICATIONS MODERNIZED IN JUST THREE MONTHS

Challenge

When migrating applications to one of its parent company's computers, Basler Securitas Versicherungs-AG faced the question of how to provide information about vehicle contracts and associated commissions within its agent portal. The extranet information services created for this were still based on the APPC protocol and couldn't be used in the new environment. Applications needed to be migrated quickly.

Solution

Software AG was able to implement a new solution using its application modernization technologies in less than three months. The solution seamlessly makes continued use of the existing extranet infrastructure and a COBOL-based inventory system, including the existing COBOL routines. The new information services are implemented using Software AG's composite application design solution and webMethods EntireX.

Benefits

- Successful project launch in less than three months
- Significantly higher level of stability and performance
- Built to leverage existing infrastructure and COBOL-based inventory system



Basler Securitas Versicherungs-AG, based in Germany, is one of three companies belonging to Bad Homburg-based Basler Securitas Versicherungen, which is part of Switzerland's Baloise Group.

Get there faster.™

“Software AG’s project expertise and integration technology made it possible to meet a very short deadline with a simple solution.”

Willi Trapp | IT Manager | Basler Securitas Versicherungs-AG

Quick and easy implementation

A number of aspects must be considered in conducting migration projects, such as which communication protocols are supported on the source platform and the target platform.

This issue presented itself in summer 2006 at Basler Securitas Versicherungs-AG, one of three companies belonging to Bad Homburg-based Basler Securitas Versicherungen, which is part of Switzerland’s Baloise Group. The plan was to migrate the existing host applications for Basler Securitas Versicherungs-AG, which handles private and business customers, as well as the transportation insurance business, by the beginning of October.

Relaunch with existing infrastructure

The new mainframe in Switzerland did not support APPC communication, which affected the extranet information services for sales partners that provide details about vehicle contracts and associated commissions. This application, therefore, had to be replaced with a TCP/IP-based solution so that it could continue to be accessible in the Basler Securitas Versicherungen agent portal. Nothing was supposed to change for end users with this relaunch, and there were no plans to expand the application’s functionalities or rework the layout. To that end, Software AG proposed a suitable solution and implemented it on time—in less than three months.

The newly created extranet information services are seamlessly integrated into the existing infrastructure with the COBOL-based inventory system, Ibis, using technologies from Software AG’s SOA suite. webMethods EntireX technology couples Web server and mainframe with the Ibis

application, calls the necessary COBOL routines at runtime and ensures that data is available on the Web server. The client, realized in Software AG’s application composition solution as a J2EE application, processes the data as HTML pages and sends them to the end user’s browsers.

To facilitate quick and easy implementation, Software AG’s composite application design solution was used only for the extranet’s dynamic components, which provide the requested technical information. The static information, such as frames and menu structure, still uses the existing infrastructure.

A strict implementation plan

In view of the tight deadline, the Software AG team decided to handle the various project steps—realization, integration and the technical test—at different times according to the individual functions. Thus, the team could test functions such as contract overview/search screen, general contract data or information about contract profitability, while others such as commission overview or account statements were still being realized.

Although big time buffers had not been included in the schedule from the start, the solution still met deadline. Willi Trapp, IT Manager at Basler Securitas Versicherungs-AG confirms the project’s success: “Software AG carried out the extranet information services relaunch under a great deal of time pressure. That makes it even more remarkable that we got a solution that in comparison to the old one is not only significantly more stable, but also performs better, with much shorter response times.”

KEY COMPONENTS

webMethods EntireX

webMethods EntireX technology opens inventory applications based on such computer languages as COBOL and PL/1, and couples them with .NET, J2EE or Web service environments. User-friendly tools allow bidirectional communication to be established quickly and securely.

Composite application design solution

This Software AG solution provided a design and runtime environment for rich Internet applications. Moreover, the consistent use of AJAX technology reduced data transfer between the server and the browser client to a minimum.

ABOUT SOFTWARE AG

Software AG is the world’s largest independent provider of Business Infrastructure Software. Our 4,000 global customers achieve measurable business results by modernizing and automating their IT systems and rapidly building new systems and processes to meet growing business demands.

Our industry-leading product portfolio includes best-in-class solutions for managing data, enabling service-oriented architecture, and improving business processes. By combining proven technology with industry expertise and best practices, our customers improve and differentiate their businesses – faster.

Software AG – Get There Faster

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