



Challenge:

Cegeka needed to rapidly revamp its Kid-IT® application while reducing related operating costs, to retain customers and gain market share.

Solution:

Application Modernization:

- Micro Focus Studio™
- Micro Focus Server™

Customer Benefits:

- Significant savings for clients
- Improved performance
- Increased productivity
- More competitive Kid-IT product

Cegeka improves capabilities to support Belgian child allowance funds while dramatically reducing clients operating costs through application modernization

“This project has been critical to the development of our business. Not only has it made us more competitive, it has been instrumental in retaining existing customers by enabling them to slash operating costs and improve productivity via a much slicker user experience.”

[Jos Verrelst, Program Manager, Cegeka NV]

The Customer

Cegeka is one of the top ten IT services and application providers in the Benelux, offering sector specific solutions to health-care, the public sector, the social security sector, the media and the financial sector.

The Challenge

Cegeka has been working for more than 30 years with the National Office for Social Security for Provincial and Local Authorities (NOSSPLA) and PARTENA, two of the key players in Belgium’s child allowances sector. NOSSPLA and PARTENA were running Cegeka’s Kid-IT application. This application manages the individual files, the calculations and payments of child allowances. Up until recently Kid-IT was running on two different mainframe environments.

While Kid-IT remained vital for both businesses, the technology had become out-of-date and was no longer agile enough to respond to the innovations within the social security sector. For example, it was difficult to perform the updates to meet with electronic data exchange standards being adopted within the Belgian social security network, which strongly impacted the automated exchange of information.

For NOSSPLA, the modernisation of Kid-IT was particularly urgent. Firstly, the company was running its core applications on an ageing Bull mainframe that was no longer supported by the vendor. Secondly, Kid-IT was the last application remaining on the mainframe, so its high operating costs had become untenable.

“If we hadn’t been able to tackle this problem, it is very likely that NOSSPLA would have been forced to look to one of our competitors for a similar application,” said Jos Verrelst, Program Manager, Cegeka NV.

'Our clients are already seeing huge benefits from the project, with one saving over a million Euros per year in operating costs alone. Due to this success, we are now well-equipped again to further grow our business in Belgian Social Security.'

[Jos Verrelst, Program Manager, Cegeka NV]

PARTENA had been using Kid-IT on an IBM mainframe since 1991 but were committed to modernising both its operating environment and critical application as part of the company's long-term IT strategy to enhance usability and automate complex manual processes while reducing costs.

The Solution

After reviewing various options, Cegeka proceeded with Micro Focus' Application Migration and Modernisation approach to modernize the kid-IT application.

"Using Micro Focus products, we were able to very quickly migrate Kid-IT to run on a SUN SPARC Server running Solaris 9. We operate the whole set up on behalf of our customers in an ASP model," said Verrelst. "In addition we updated Kid-IT with the new capabilities our clients required in no time by re-using all the back end PACBASE and generated COBOL code as Web Services. The front end is newly developed in Java, while using XML to meet the latest electronic data exchange requirements."

The projects for both NOSSPLA and PARTENA ran smoothly and were completed within just 15 months.

The Result

Customers retained: this modernization success has enabled Cegeka to meet its primary objective of retaining its key customers while providing a more competitive solution. The latter even positions Cegeka for further growth in this area.

Reduced costs: moving from the mainframe has enabled NOSSPLA to reduce its annual operating costs by more than one million Euros, as the company was able to eliminate all mainframe costs. Similarly, PARTENA has slashed its maintenance costs by nearly 50%.

Improved performance: the performance of the migrated application has surpassed all expectations with batch processes completing up to 30% faster.

Increased productivity: users are now able to take advantage of the improved easy-to-use interfaces and automated data exchange. Cegeka clients are reporting significant improvements in throughput and productivity enabling more enquiries to be processed by existing staff.

On-Going Compliance Ensured: Kid-It is now designed to be updated rapidly to deal with changes related to the electronic exchange of data within the Belgian social security network. This way it can support the Belgian government's call to automate the majority of information exchanges between agencies and the government.

The Future

Moving forward, all new customers will use the Kid-IT application on the SUN platform in an ASP model to minimize application operating costs. Cegeka intends to continue its journey towards optimal operator efficiency by making Kid-IT SOA-enabled and further improving the user interface. In addition, Cegeka will continue the automation of all manual processes to ensure its customers can offer the best possible services to families and children relying on payments they are entitled to.

www.microfocus.com

Micro Focus Worldwide

Australia.....	1800 632 626
Belgium	0800 11 282
Canada	877-772-4450 x1123
France	0800 835 135
Germany.....	0800 182 5443
Ireland	+353 182 120 49
Italy.....	+39 02 694 34 01
Japan	+81 3 5793 8550
Luxembourg.....	800 23743
Netherlands	+31 23 5689 138
Norway	+47 22 91 07 20
Sweden	+46 850 901 258
Switzerland.....	0800 564 247
United Kingdom ..	0800 328 4967
United States.....	1 877 772 4450
Other Countries ..	+44 1635 32646

www.microfocus.com/contact

About Micro Focus

Micro Focus, a member of the FTSE 250, provides innovative software that allows companies to dramatically improve the business value of their enterprise applications. Micro Focus Enterprise Application Modernization and Management software enables customers' business applications to respond rapidly to market changes and embrace modern architectures with reduced cost and risk. For additional information please visit www.microfocus.com.