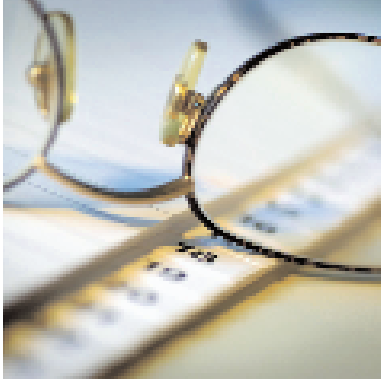




Essilor International



Business Problem:

Essilor International needed to move its critical accounts receivable package to a strategic platform, from an aging end of service life Wang VS 7130 machine, and improve the system performance.

" When we decided to shut down the Wang VS and migrate to Windows® using Micro Focus, we immediately saw an increase in motivation and a sense of excitement from our IT staff. It was a very interesting project and having everyone so enthusiastic made it extremely successful. "

[Ronald Carey, Front-end Lab Systems Support Manager, Essilor]

Increasing Developers' Productivity and Lowering Costs

Product Solution

Micro Focus Studio

Micro Focus Server

Overview

A subsidiary of the Paris-based Essilor International, Essilor of America [EOA] is the largest manufacturer of optical lenses in the U.S. and considered the market leader in manufacturing progressive, high-index and anti-reflective coated lenses under its Varilux®, Crizal®, Airwear®, Thin & Lite® and other Essilor brand names. A pioneer in the development and production of ophthalmic lenses, EOA employs over 6,100 people in more than 100 facilities and 65 labs throughout the United States.

Challenge – Improving Production Time of Critical Accounts System

Following EOA's acquisition of Omega Laboratory Group (formerly Omega Optical), which has 80 labs spread across the country and is the largest manufacturer of prescription eyewear in the U.S., Essilor Laboratories of America (ELOA) decided it was necessary to improve the production time of the Accounts Receivable System. For over a decade Omega processed sales reports and monthly account statements from 15 labs on one heavily customized Accounts Receivable package, hosted on a WANG VS 7130 machine. In order to process sales, the Wang system received data overnight from each lab's individual SCO/UNIX machine and then produced a monthly statement for each account.

Running these monthly reports was extremely time-consuming; the processing time for one lab alone was over four hours. In an industry where speed matters, and quickly producing accurate sales reports is an imperative, ELOA realized that reports would be produced more quickly and efficiently if the Accounts Receivable System was migrated to a Microsoft® Windows 2003 server. Unlike the Wang VS, Windows would allow the upload and download of data to be automated, dramatically reducing the processing time of each lab's critical sales information.

ELOA needed a vendor to migrate the Accounts Receivable System at low risk with minimal changes to the source code. The IT department didn't have to search for long. Having worked with Micro Focus solutions in the past, ELOA selected Micro Focus Studio and Server to perform the migration.

Solution

Using the Micro Focus Application Migration and Modernization approach, ELOA shut down the Wang VS 7130 machine after successfully moving the entire Accounts Receivable System to a single processor machine running Microsoft Windows 2003.

Approximately 70 percent of the code was moved without change, delivering reuse of all the core business logic, as well as a fast and low-cost transformation of the application infrastructure. The migration process was greatly aided by the graphical tooling within Micro Focus Studio which ELOA used to perform editing and debugging. "Studio's IDE tools are much faster and user-friendly," said Ronald Carey, Front-end Lab Systems Support Manager, Essilor. "The IDE brings out things that we never had in our previous environment. One of the most valuable things Micro Focus brings to the developers is the debugging facility. Testing and debugging can now be done in a fraction of the time."

Results

COST SAVINGS, INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY AND IMPROVED EFFICIENCY

It now takes only minutes to debug problems and ELOA no longer has to wait hours to transfer data from the network to the Wang. Importantly, there has been a 100-200 percent performance improvement, and nightly and month-end processes have now been automated – developers only spend time monitoring the processes and reacting to problems. In addition, sales reports and account statements are now more accurate because it is now very easy for developers to identify and fix incorrect data from each lab.

“When we decided to shut down the Wang VS and migrate to Windows using Micro Focus, we immediately saw an increase in motivation and a sense of excitement from our IT staff. It was a very interesting project and having everyone so enthusiastic made it extremely successful,” said Carey.

Most importantly, the time for running a report has been dramatically reduced with the advent of automated processes. In addition, operational staff are now able to devote their attention to other business-critical tasks.

“Since the migration was completed, we have automated nightly and month-end processes, so we’ve been able to eliminate a lot of the unnecessary activity. The speed is just incredible. The one report that took 4-1/2 hours to run on the Wang VS now runs in about 45 minutes on a server containing a single CPU 3.20 Ghz Xeon Processor running under Windows 2003,” added Carey.

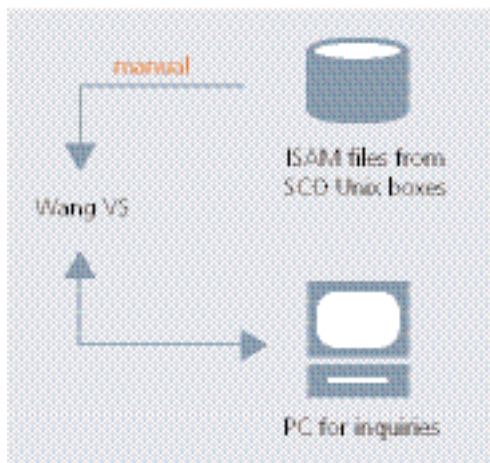
Future Initiatives

Over 15 labs were migrated and ELOA is considering putting any new labs that may enter the group through acquisition onto one main Accounts Receivable System on Windows. It is clear from the success of the initial migration that moving all accounts systems onto one platform will enable ELOA to consolidate all customer statements across the company.

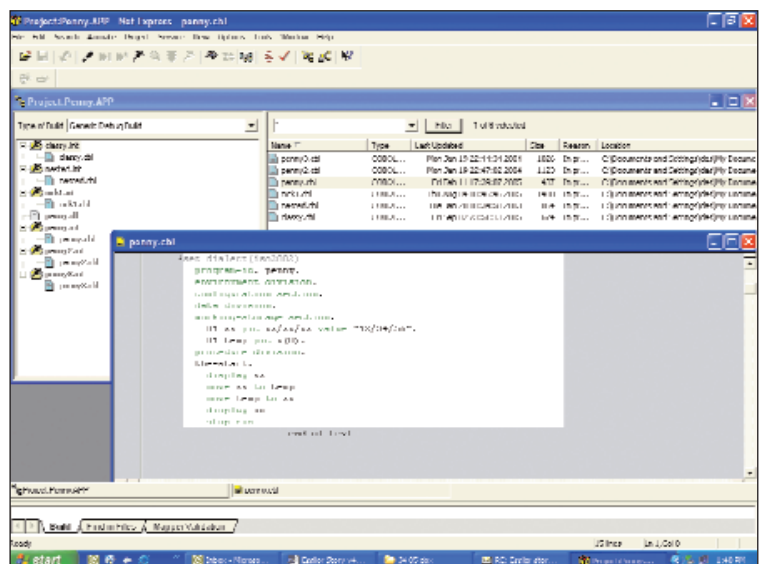
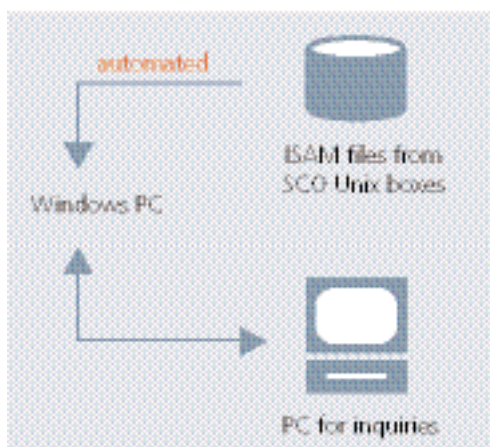
“It would be very beneficial to us to migrate to a single system at some point in time,” said Carey. “We would then be able to better service our customers by consolidating statements and realigning account numbers so our customers only have to pay one bill at the end of each month.”

ELOA is now far better positioned for further modernization or extension of the application, such as migrating to a .NET COBOL Windows Form graphical user interface.

Original architecture took 4½ hours to produce one report



New architecture took ¼ hours to produce one report



The Micro Focus Studio IDE

About Micro Focus

Micro Focus provides innovative software that helps companies to dramatically improve the business value of their enterprise applications. Micro Focus Enterprise Application Modernization software enables customers' business applications to respond rapidly to market changes and embrace modern architecture. For more information, please visit www.microfocus.com.

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Micro Focus Worldwide

Austria	0800 293 535
Australia	1800 632 626
Belgium	0800 11 282
Canada	1 905 824 7397
France	0800 916 564
Germany	0800 182 5443
Ireland	+353 1 469 3121
Italy	800 784 420
Japan	+81 3 5793 8550
Luxembourg	800 23743
Netherlands	+31 23 5689 138
Norway	+47 22 91 07 20
Switzerland	0800 564 247
Sweden	+46 8 545 13 390
United Kingdom ...	0800 328 4967
United States	1 877 772 4450
Other Countries ..	+44 1635 32646