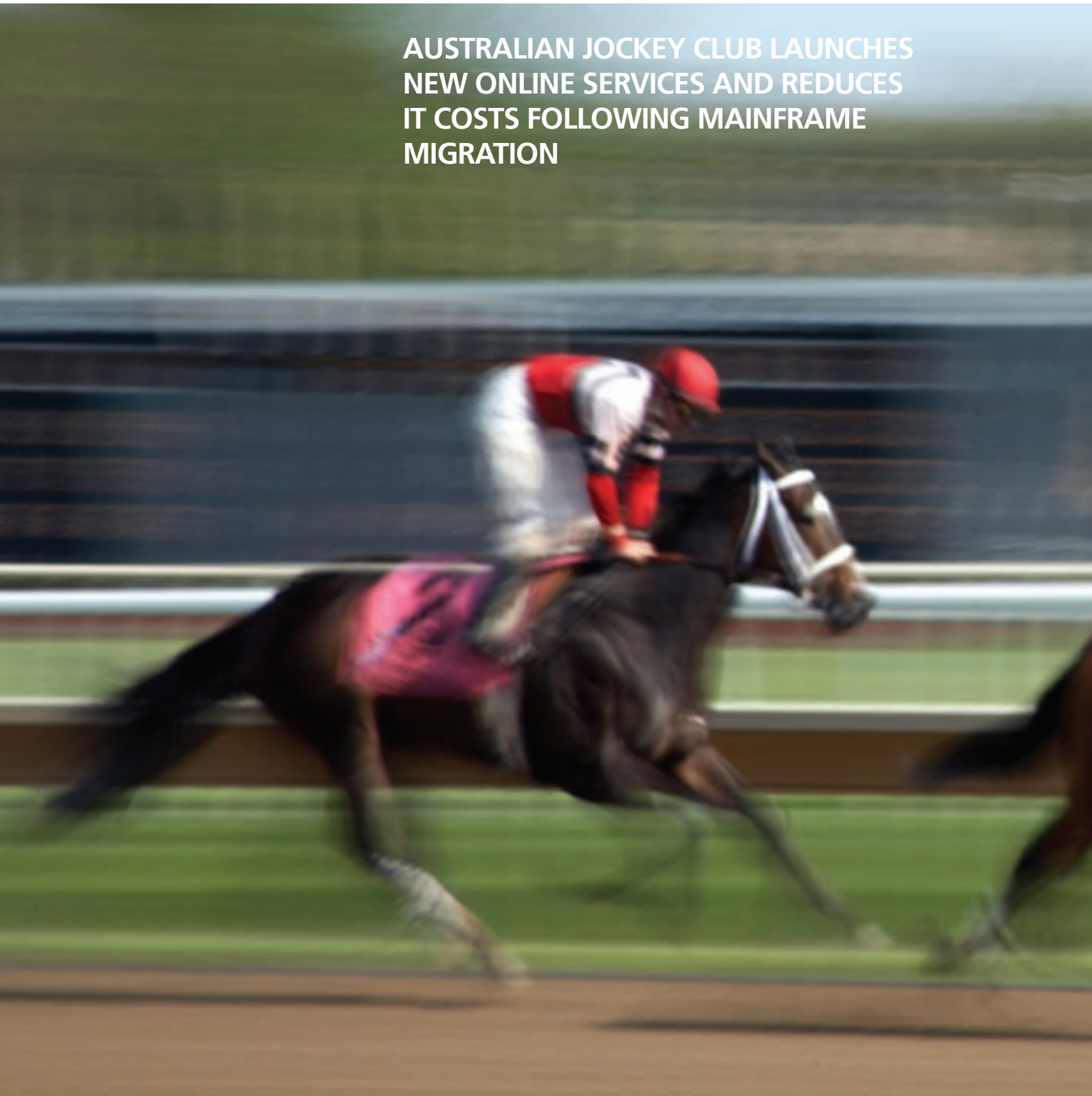


CASE STUDY: AUSTRALIAN STUD BOOK

AUSTRALIAN JOCKEY CLUB LAUNCHES
NEW ONLINE SERVICES AND REDUCES
IT COSTS FOLLOWING MAINFRAME
MIGRATION



AUSTRALIAN JOCKEY CLUB LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE SERVICES AND REDUCES IT COSTS FOLLOWING MAINFRAME MIGRATION

CHALLENGE

To reduce IT costs and increase developer productivity through mainframe migration and extension to the web, allowing online registration facilities for breeders and owners with online search of the ASB repository.

SOLUTION

- Micro Focus Studio™
- Micro Focus Server™

BENEFITS

- Successful migration of data to a Windows/SQL Server environment resulting in lower costs, enhanced and faster reporting, easier maintenance, web capabilities and a more robust architecture
- Improved testing functions, thereby increasing the development team's productivity
- Annual savings of \$200,000 on IT costs, recouped more than 60 percent of development time and improved online access to records database

THE COMPANY

The Australian Stud Book (ASB), the body responsible for ensuring the integrity of thoroughbred breeding in Australia, has achieved annual savings of more than \$200,000 on its IT costs, reclaimed more than 60 percent of its development time, and vastly improved online access to its records database since migrating from a mainframe system to the Microsoft Windows platform.

Jointly owned by the Australian Jockey Club (AJC) and the Victoria Racing Club (VRC), the ASB is based at the AJC in Randwick, Sydney. It holds information critical to horse racing in Australia; a horse cannot race or breed unless it has been identified by the ASB. The ASB relies heavily on its computer system, which records the breeding, identification, pedigree and import-export of all thoroughbred horses. This information is published daily on the ASB website and periodically in a printed Stud Book. The AJC's IT department is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the ASB's IT system and website.

THE CHALLENGE

The Australian Stud Book Application, written in COBOL, had been operating on a mainframe (ICL) platform since 1989. In 2001, ASB decided to migrate to a Windows-based server environment to leverage work the AJC's IT department had already completed in re-engineering the Stud Book system to make it portable from the mainframe. Plans were put in

place to develop the ASB website into a full-blown online service, complete with online registration facilities for breeders and owners, and online search facilities for the entire ASB repository (dating back to the 1700s).

AJC chose to partner with Micro Focus for the project, based on Micro Focus' expertise in COBOL migration and the strategic project advice it could offer them. Micro Focus advised the AJC on the scope of the project, and then supplied tailored learning courses for the AJC's IT department to use the robust features of Micro Focus Studio's development environment to complete a successful migration.

THE SOLUTION

Micro Focus Studio played a large part in the completion of the migration project, which ran two months ahead of time and under budget.

Micro Focus Studio includes functionality that allows for the packaging of COBOL modules as services which can interoperate with Windows applications including Microsoft .NET, C# or, in the ASB's case, Visual Basic®.

The wizard support in Micro Focus Studio provided a simple method of creating the services based on original COBOL modules. Also, the sophisticated source code editing and testing facilities in Micro Focus Studio helped speed the migration process.

"With easier maintenance on the new platform we've won back more time for real development work, resulting in greater productivity and business development. The time saved on mainframe maintenance has allowed us to develop new ways of identifying thoroughbreds... Similarly, it's unlikely the website would have progressed so rapidly if we had not gone through the migration process."

Eric Richardson,
IT Manager, AJC

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Eric Richardson,
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“The new system is much easier to change, and our information is more readily available to users. It has improved our reporting capabilities and cut our maintenance costs dramatically, thanks to Micro Focus’ testing capabilities,” said Eric Richardson, IT Manager, AJC.

The AJC used Studio to migrate the Stud Book application to Windows using Micro Focus’ rehosting solution – taking an existing application and recompiling it entirely for a different platform. Stored procedures were created for a new Microsoft SQL Server database, to replace the original COBOL/IDMS data access modules.

Micro Focus provided tailored training courses for the team of five AJC programmers to gain maximum advantage from Studio. This was critical for the future upkeep of the system and also saved costs, as the AJC programming team members were able to maintain the new application themselves.

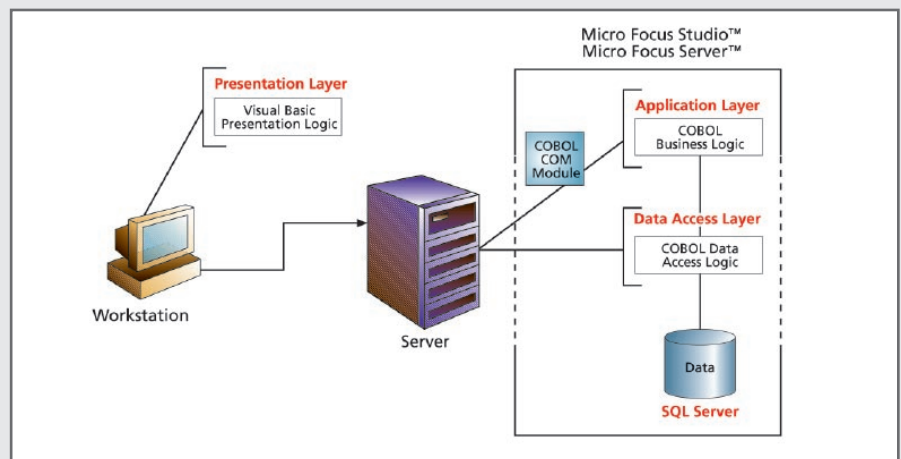
THE RESULT

Incorporating Micro Focus’ Rehosting and Modernization solution through Studio’s web-enablement capabilities, the AJC is now updating the Stud book website on a daily basis. Time originally spent maintaining the application on the

mainframe has been reclaimed for new development, allowing for greater flexibility within the IT department. Previously, extracting the information from the mainframe database and transferring it to the website database had taken over 24 hours and was consequently only done once a fortnight.

“With Windows it takes us four hours, so updates take place every evening and the records are available online the next day. It’s a quantum leap in terms of getting information back to the breeders, and helping them process their breeding activities faster than was ever possible before,” said Richardson. *“We wanted to provide online facilities for breeders to lodge the necessary documents that record the breeding process. The migration has allowed us to use the website as a front-end to the ASB application and to offer this service to our users.”*

“With easier maintenance on the new platform we’ve won back more time for real development work, resulting in greater productivity and business development. The time saved on mainframe maintenance has allowed us to develop new ways of identifying thoroughbreds (such as DNA testing and micro-chipping) far quicker and with fewer staff than if we were still using the old system. Similarly, it’s unlikely the website would have progressed so rapidly if we had not gone



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through the migration process."

ASB has recently added subscription access to the Stud Book website in response to the growing popularity of the service and the additional resources needed to continually develop it.

"We're not going overboard and locking breeders out from an essential service (membership costs less than \$30 a year), but are instead adding value through the development of new features and functionality," said Richardson. *"Access to the basic site is still free, and anyone can look up recent records of any racehorse or breeding horse in the system and breeders can use the online lodgement systems. With subscription comes additional access to detailed breeding and pedigree information."*

If website traffic is any indication – daily hits have been steadily increasing following the introduction of paid membership – demand is higher than ever and can only grow further as more breeders discover the benefits of the new system.

Although it has been supplemented by the website, the Australian Stud Book continues to be published every four years and is both a reference work and collectors item for thoroughbred breeding enthusiasts.

A WINNING MIGRATION

The ASB successfully migrated its Stud Book Application and data to a Windows/SQL Server environment. This resulted in lower costs, enhanced and faster reporting, easier

maintenance, web capabilities and a more robust architecture.

"We enjoyed a smooth transition to the new platform," Richardson said. *"Our legacy COBOL applications translated perfectly and transferred intact to the desktop. In fact we had planned to phase out COBOL entirely once the application was up and running on the new platform, but when the migration was complete the converted COBOL applications were so robust and easy to maintain, and we had such a development backlog to address, that we kept them. It's been a win-win situation ever since."*

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.

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