DIE SOFTWARE Peter Fitzon GmbH

Visual COBOL supports digital banking strategy and delivers 65% faster time-to-market.

Overview

DIE SOFTWARE Peter Fitzon GmbH (DIE SOFT-WARE) is an independent and international software house providing a comprehensive range of banking and financial solutions. With its product OBS, DIE SOFTWARE ranks as one of the leading core banking providers in Germany and German-speaking Europe.

Challenge

OBS is a complete core banking system, combining banking and IT technical competence. Many modules make up the platform, such as taxes, securities, financial accounting, current accounts, credit and loans, and reporting. The platform was developed in the 1980s, and leverages COBOL. Patrick Weber, CEO at DIE

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PATRICK WEBER
CEO
DIE SOFTWARE

SOFTWARE, explains the changing environment in which banks operate: "Digitalization is no longer spoken of as a trend; it's a given and happening today. Within our customer base, open banking is a concept that requires collaboration with third parties and integration into different systems. Using pure COBOL can be a limitation with these requirements."

He continues: "Many of our client banks deal in securities, generating terabytes upon terabytes of data, especially in Germany. With over two million securities stored in OBS, we wanted to streamline the process, to minimize required disk space and processing time. We needed a solution which reduced the data download feed and data storage requirements for the banks, and provided online access to enter and update securities."

Solution

COBOL has served DIE SOFTWARE very well over decades of building the business and developing new banking services. The COBOL language is continually under development with OpenText™ and DIE SOFTWARE upgraded as new versions became available to give them advanced capabilities. OpenText™ Net Express had been their trusted and proven choice for distributed COBOL application development.

DIE SOFTWARE.

At a Glance

■ **Industry**
Software and Technology

■ **Location**
Germany

■ **Challenge**
Support digitalization and open banking, while reducing data storage requirements and providing real-time access to DIE SOFTWARE securities service

■ **Products and Services**
Micro Focus Visual COBOL for Eclipse

■ **Results**
+ 95% reduction in data storage requirements
+ 65% faster time-to-market
+ Improved developer collaboration with mixed language support
+ Real-time securities service access through API enablement

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As digital strategies and a more connected world emerged, Micro Focus introduced Visual COBOL (now part of OpenText™), which was a logical next step for DIE SOFTWARE. Using Micro Focus Visual COBOL for Eclipse enabled DIE Software to build a next-generation service for its securities offering. By implementing interfaces for SOAP and REST communication with different source systems, Micro Focus Visual COBOL seamlessly connects to Java, which simplifies collaboration with external financial systems.

Sven Oldenburg, CTO at DIE SOFTWARE, comments: "We have decades of COBOL experience within our company and it is great to leverage this in a new and modern development environment, where we work with COBOL and Java. Mixed language debugging helps us find problems fast and we don't need SOAP or REST expertise because support for this is delivered through Java."

Micro Focus Visual COBOL supports all platforms required by DIE SOFTWARE and leverages Eclipse as an integrated software development environment. In a relatively small company, all departments tend to work close together towards a common goal anyway, but having Visual COBOL in place improves developer collaboration.

Using Micro Focus Visual COBOL, a real-time online interface was developed, leveraging a SOAP/REST service. Client banks seamlessly connect to this via a SOAP API and can easily request, update, and delete their securities data around the clock. Apart from gaining the obvious benefit of real-time access, Weber highlights another advantage: "With our new real-time securities solution, developed with [Micro Focus] Visual COBOL, we have saved 95 percent of data storage space, as we don't require the majority of tables we needed previously."

Results

DIE SOFTWARE banked on COBOL nearly 35 years ago. Today, the team still reap the benefits of this decision, according to Oldenburg: "[Micro Focus] Visual COBOL has opened up a new world of connectivity opportunities for us. We can collaborate and integrate with other software providers, delivering value-add to our banking clients. We also estimate that our time to market is 65 percent faster than it would be without [Micro Focus] Visual COBOL, thanks to the efficient mixed language development features and the improved developer collaboration."

Weber concludes: "Reducing data storage requirements and providing real-time access to our securities service was a pressing issue for us. Micro Focus (now part of OpenText™) helped us define the solution and deliver it to our clients. We look forward to many more successful collaborations."

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