

Dexia Crediop

Dexia Crediop and Visual COBOL unlock business application value delivering 60% performance improvement while halving time to market.



Overview

Dexia Crediop S.p.A. is an Italian bank specialized in financing public infrastructure projects. The bank is closely aligned with and regulated by Banca d'Italia, Italy's central bank, and the European Central Bank (ECB) which maintains price stability within the Eurozone.

Challenge

To comply with banking and government institutions, (ECB and Banca d'Italia requirements among others) Dexia Crediop operates a set of statutory reporting applications in support of operational and financial control. This application is mainframe-based and was developed in-house using COBOL in the mid 2000s. Its

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IT Manager
Dexia Crediop

daily batch operation reports on any bank actions which warrant further investigation.

Marco Pavonio, IT Manager at Dexia Crediop, explains the importance of the application: "Although this is just one of the applications in our portfolio, it's quite complex and, above all, it is of critical importance as the consequences of non-compliance are far-reaching and could include financial sanctions and even operational suspension, so business continuity is of vital importance to us. However, our current IT strategy is moving away from the mainframe and we looked to consolidate our IT systems onto a more cost-effective platform. We wanted to innovate while minimizing any risk to our existing business operations."

In order to achieve business innovation and cost reduction, Dexia Crediop initially looked at rewriting its mainframe application but soon found this was a high risk strategy which came with a big price tag and a two year project time scale.

Solution

As COBOL skills were already available in-house, and business continuity was the main driver, it made sense to Dexia Crediop to reuse the existing business logic already invested in

Dexia Crediop

At a Glance

Industry

Financial Services

Location

Italy

Challenge

Move a business-critical application from the mainframe onto a more cost-effective Windows platform. Dexia Crediop wanted to innovate while minimizing any risk to its business.

Products and Services

Micro Focus Visual COBOL for Eclipse
Micro Focus COBOL Server

Success Highlights

- + 60% performance improvement
- + 18 month ROI achievement
- + Full reuse of business intelligence
- + Halved the time to market

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MARCO PAVONIO

IT Manager
Dexia Crediop

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the application. A market evaluation identified Micro Focus Visual COBOL, as Pavonio comments: “Micro Focus helped us set up a testing phase in which we ran parallel operations on our mainframe and Windows environments. The service we received was outstanding and it really helped simplify the application re-hosting project for us.

We knew Micro Focus Visual COBOL had dealt with similar situations and were confident that it could help us too. We had weekly checkpoints to make sure the new environment was performing as it should and we established standards against which we tested the re-hosted application. With Visual COBOL we could perform all the tests required using one set of integrated tools and after just one year we were able to decommission the mainframe and run our core business applications on our desired Windows environment, without any interruption to the business.”

Dexia Crediop moved from a terminal emulator-based editor to an Eclipse-based editor which offered great usability benefits. Debugging can be done much more efficiently in the new environment.

Results

Following a successful move to Windows, Dexia Crediop has recorded a 60% improved application performance and much enhanced usability as it took the opportunity to modernize the developer interface with the user-friendly Micro Focus development tools.

Dexia Crediop was able to leverage 10 year old intellectual property, which is vitally important as the application contains the international regulatory framework for banks (Basel III) which European banking institutions need to comply with.

Pavonio on the project: “Our IT strategy was aimed at system and technology consolidation and cost rationalization. We saw clear value in our existing assets and skills and Micro Focus enabled us to leverage these while minimizing any risk to the business. We have realized a significant OPEX reduction and will achieve full ROI on the project within 18 months. We are very pleased with the service received from Micro Focus and look forward to the future.”