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 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-stretching 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 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

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MARCO PAVONIO
IT Manager
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.

Solution
Visual COBOL for Eclipse and COBOL Server were deployed to move the application to a Windows Server platform, realizing immediate cost savings.

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

Customer Success Story
Visual COBOL for Eclipse
COBOL Server
“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 application on our desired Windows environment, without any interruption to the business.”

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.”