“Micro Focus’s state-of-the-art development tools have enabled us to create user-friendly and efficient banking applications that deliver real business value. As a result, our customers have been able to make substantial savings through increased productivity and greatly improve the quality of the services they provide to their clients.”

Yeun-Chung Tan
Director, Business Development Department, IISI

International Integrated Systems, Inc.

Sophisticated banking system saves one customer $1.5 million in labor costs

Challenge
International Integrated Systems, Inc planned to build a high-quality core banking application package for the Taiwanese and Chinese markets. It therefore needed a robust, industry-standard programming language supported by powerful and easy-to-use software tools.

Solution
› Micro Focus Server Express™
› Micro Focus Server for COBOL™

International Integrated Systems, Inc
International Integrated Systems, Inc (IISI), a leading IT services provider in Taiwan, is dedicated to the success of its customers. Its highly qualified professionals bring exceptional technical skills and extensive experience in software, hardware and telecommunications to the creation of world-class solutions.

Robust, resilient, high performance programming language required
When IISI’s management team decided to build a full-function core banking system they knew that the choice of software technology would be crucial. The success of the project depended on meeting the requirements of the implementation team for a productive development environment, while also addressing the customer’s business needs.

A key issue for the development team was the need for a clear and sustainable programming language that enabled rapid implementation of business logic and had a built-in ability to handle commercial data types. Of equal importance was an easy-to-use development environment featuring advanced graphical programming techniques, plus support for mixed language working.

The chosen software tools had to be able to produce applications that met the extremely demanding requirements of the financial services industry. Banking applications must have fast response times, deliver high throughput and provide continuous availability, while always ensuring the safety and integrity of business data. Alongside the technical requirements, IISI also had to take into account practical factors, such as existing programming skills within the organization, the cost of development tools and the need for competitive end-user licensing terms.
New solution developed in COBOL

IISI elected to use the Micro Focus Server Express development environment and create its banking package by building COBOL business functionality. “We chose Micro Focus software tools because our development staff were already familiar with Micro Focus COBOL, and the stability and reliability of the technology was proven,” says Yeun-Chung Tan, Director of the Business Development Department at IISI.

The IISI team proceeded to develop a comprehensive package that encompassed a broad spectrum of banking functionality, providing high speed, real-time transaction processing and full branch banking facilities. Using the high-performance Micro Focus run-time environment, the IISI system, known as TPE, is capable of executing at least one million transactions per day and is designed for a continuous 24 hours a day, seven days a week operation. The development software was supplied by Micro Focus’ partner in Taiwan, DTC Cortex Ltd., which also provides expert advice and guidance on its use, plus technical support. “The responsive and skilled local support for our COBOL development environment provided by DTC was invaluable in helping us meet our objectives,” comments Mr. Tan.

ROI achieved rapidly – with customers achieving million-dollar savings

IISI has enjoyed considerable success with its TPE system, which is currently in use in a number of financial institutions in Taiwan and China. “Because of our cost-efficient development strategy, we were able to achieve payback after only two or three sales,” observes Mr. Tan. “Furthermore, we have been able to offer a robust and highly functional banking system at competitive prices.”

The flexibility of Micro Focus COBOL has enabled IISI to produce a complex banking package comprising over 200,000 line of code that can be easily configured for different customer needs. The system can work with a variety of major databases, such as Oracle, Informix or DB2. It can also be deployed on IBM AIX, Sun Solaris, HP/UX and Redhat Linux platforms, to maximize customer choice.

The advanced Micro Focus development environment has increased programmer productivity and greatly improved time-to-market. With the TPE system, customers find that their requests for new features are met within a week, rather than a month. Most importantly, the application software has proven to be reliable and trouble-free, which helps to keep support costs low and improves customer satisfaction.

The TPE system has also brought major benefits to IISI’s customers. The efficiency of the application software has improved operational performance, enabled quicker, more agile responses to new business demands and has reduced costs. The reduction in labor costs by speeding up business processes and eliminating overtime has saved $1.5 million for one customer alone.

“Well positioned to take the application forward

The success of the TPE system has prompted IISI to consider accessing new markets by exploiting the power of the Web. Software as a Service (SAAS) is gaining increasing acceptance for the delivery of financial services and is attractive to smaller enterprises that cannot afford to implement large in-house systems. With its support for Web services, Micro Focus COBOL is well suited to support this new direction.

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, Testing 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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