

TRASMEDITERRANEA ACCIONA: FULL STEAM AHEAD

Freight company moves to the cloud with Visual COBOL



TRASMEDITERRANEA



URL: www.trasmediterranea.es
 Industry: Transportation
 Country: Spain

Highlights

- IT cost reduction of 20%
- Return on investment within 18 months
- Modernization project completed in less than nine months, improving Time to Market by 25%
- More efficient modern application development environment
- Improved capability to manage variable customer workloads

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Trasmediterranea Acciona

At a glance: Trasmediterranea Acciona

Reusing core mainframe COBOL applications and re-hosting to the Cloud reduces operating costs and improves service levels.

Solution:

- Visual COBOL for Visual Studio
- COBOL Server

Challenge

Trasmediterranea Acciona

Part of Acciona Group one of the leading Spanish corporations, an operator in infrastructures, energy, water and services in over 30 countries with a modern fleet consisting of 25 ships, is the leading ship owning company in Spain for both cargo and passengers, joining the Peninsula with the Balearic Islands, the Canary Islands and Ceuta and Melilla, Morocco and Algeria

Acciona Group

Acciona is one of the leading Spanish corporations, an operator in infrastructures, energy, water, and services in over 30 countries.

Trasmediterranea Acciona relied on its mainframe to deliver ticketing and boarding application services. These core business services are comprised of COBOL batch processes and CICS transactions. Although the system performed well, the mainframe was a costly solution for a seasonal business and the steady increase in recurring costs – along with the growing economic difficulties in Spain – required Trasmediterranea Acciona to reduce the operational costs that were preventing further investment in the applications and limiting the adoption of new technologies. A more versatile and flexible approach was needed.

Improving service levels

Trasmediterranea Acciona was also keen to improve customer service and enhance the user experience. The business critical ticketing and boarding application needed modernizing. Options for this high value application included rewriting, replacement, retiring it and re-hosting to a different platform.

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Rewriting or replacing the COBOL application would be too costly and would take twice as long as reusing it so technology partner Microsoft Consulting Services introduced Trasmediterranea Acciona to the Microsoft Azure Cloud platform. Using the Micro Focus Visual COBOL solution was an opportunity to port core COBOL applications and existing business rules to .NET and Azure without rewriting existing application code.

Reusing core business applications

A Trasmediterranea Acciona spokesperson explained the project's importance: "Our strategy was to leverage the Microsoft Azure cloud to achieve significant cost savings. Working with Micro Focus, we were able to reuse our existing COBOL mainframe business functions in our new cloud offering, which saved us both time and money, reducing our time to market from an original plan of twelve months down to less than nine. The Micro Focus Visual COBOL technology enabled us to rapidly move into a more modern architecture, under .NET, providing us a flexible platform for future growth."

Reusing helped Trasmediterranea Acciona meet project timelines and preserve the capabilities of the business-critical logistics management application. Moving to the cloud also delivered a unified web-based User Interface, with full integration of information, people and processes.

Enhancing the application technology portfolio – and maintenance and improvements delivery – has improved business operations and realized a 20 percent saving in infrastructure costs. While all new functionality was to be delivered in C#, the development team continues to enhance and maintain their core COBOL applications, demonstrating their ongoing importance to the business.

Increased developer efficiency

In addition, Visual COBOL created a collaborative development environment. The C# and COBOL developers share a development toolset, Visual Studio. Trasmediterranea commented: "Using Micro Focus Visual COBOL, we can reuse our critical COBOL applications,

which for us is by far the lowest risk route in taking this application to the cloud. Visual COBOL's integration with Visual Studio means our COBOL and C# development teams can fully collaborate on future updates, making ongoing application maintenance and new improvements faster than ever before." This is especially useful where languages such as C# and COBOL are combined within the application.

A platform for the future

The new external user interfaces have enhanced the Trasmediterranea Acciona customer experience. Travellers check travel or shipment reservations, transport status and delivery details. Moving the application to the Azure cloud platform offers Trasmediterranea Acciona the best solution to plan future interface enhancements for customer services employees, who use the application to reserve, book, and process shipments on cargo ships. The capabilities of the application can easily be extended to deliver new services and support new delivery channels, such as smartphones and tablets.

Trasmediterranea Acciona concluded: "Making our core logistics application available under Microsoft Azure, using Visual COBOL has not only dramatically reduced our costs, but it also helps position our applications in a more agile, modern architecture for the future."

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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