Folksam

Casegen Enterprise Case Study – Folksam

When one of Sweden's largest insurance companies realised they had an over dependence on increasingly scarce CA-Telon developers, they knew they had to find a solution to move them away from the Telon environment. TSG Software, experts in Telon migrations since 1995, provided a solution and level of service that ensured the insurer achieved their goal.

About Folksam

Folksam is a Swedish insurance company employing approx. 3,800 people across 40 offices in Sweden. They are one of the country's largest insurers, insuring every other family home and every fifth car in Sweden.

THE PROBLEM

From the 1980's up until the year 2000 Folksam had used Telon to generate applications on the mainframe. In 2010 many of these applications were still running in production, but as the Telon solution became superseded by new technology it became increasingly problematic to maintain the Telon generated applications.

Problem
•Legacy CA-Telon applications increasingly difficult to maintain
•Diminishing pool of Telon skilled developers

Solution
•Migrate Telon applications to TSG's Casegen Enterprise

Benefits
•PC based application design tool
•Easy to use, no training required

One of the main problems in maintaining the Telon applications was the deteriorating pool of developers with a good command of the Telon product. As new techniques such as Web Services and WebSphere Java apps became more mainstream, the skill set of developers changed towards those techniques.

Another issue was the Folksam development environment (Jboss/ESB with IVORY and the backend Telon applications). The problem was that the Telon applications used Telon's own "native" 3270 screen management, meaning the IVORY WSDL backend services had to use screen-scraping techniques to get to the data. Converting to standard CICS/BMS would give IVORY a much better alternative to get/put data.

The above issues prompted Folksam to look for a solution that would reduce their dependency on Telon and Telon trained developers.

THE SOLUTION

In their search for a solution, Folksam discovered TSG Software. TSG have been migrating CA-Telon clients since 1995, and offer several options for doing so. The most suitable solution for Folksam was to migrate all of the Telon applications into TSG's own application development tool, Casegen Enterprise.

Casegen Enterprise is a PC based application design and generation tool similar in structure to CA-Telon. However, since Casegen Enterprise generates modern, well structured PL/1 or COBOL code with no licensed components, clients have the option to convert all of the Telon generated applications into COBOL or Pl/1, and continue running with those in the future if they so desire.

For Folksam, migrating the Telon generated programs into Casegen Enterprise allowed them to continue to use the applications whilst retiring the Telon product. The similarities in structure between Casegen Enterprise and Telon meant that there was minimal requirement to retrain the existing Telon developers on how to use the new tool.

Furthermore, the ease of use of the PC based Casegen Enterprise meant that a larger number of developers could use the product, reducing the dependency on the diminishing pool of Telon developers.

THE OUTCOME

By migrating the Telon applications to Casegen Enterprise Folksam solved their problem of being reliant on a reducing pool of Telon skilled developers. The COBOL code generated by Casegen Enterprise gave the insurer options on how to handle the Telon applications in the future.

Converting to standard CICS/BMS resulted in significant improvements in backend performance for IVORY WSDL backend services. Backend performance for a typical backend application service could be improved from +10 seconds to 0.6 seconds just by changing to CICS/BMS and slightly reworking the IVORY WSDL. Folksam developers welcomed the opportunity to work on a new, PC based, tool and found changing from Telon to Casegen simple and intuitive.

IN SUMMARY

By migrating their Telon generated applications to Casegen Enterprise, Folksam reduced their dependency on an ageing tool with a diminishing pool of skilled developers. The new environment provided by Casegen Enterprise gave greater flexibility in generating and maintaining applications, and brought the applications to a modern PC based environment.

Mikael Balck, Technical Project Manager at Folksam, commented: "TSG were very professional, making every effort to understand and satisfy our requirements. From first contact to project close we felt we were getting all the attention we required, and we were surprised at how few errors were actually discovered in the converted code."

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