



PARTNERS IN SUCCESS

Fast Facts:

- Food manufacturing and wholesale industry
- Established in 1925
- Indiana, USA
- 2,500 employees
- www.healthylifebread.com

Application:

- Business system, A/P, A/R, payroll, order entry, inventory management, production scheduling, sales management
- 1.1 million lines of code, 950 programs, 400 screens

Business Needs:

- Platform conversion
- Programmer productivity
- Short time to market

New Environment:

- ACUCOBOL-GT
- ACUCOBOL-GT Thin Client
- Vision file system and flat files
- AcuBench®
- HP Itanium HP-UX

Previous Environment:

- HP e3000
- HP COBOL II
- Image database
- KSAM and flat files

Baker Seeks a Wholesome Alternative to the HP e3000

“ACUCOBOL-GT® was a perfect fit for our HP COBOL II applications. We were able to complete our migration three months ahead of schedule and under budget too.”

—Dan Coyle

Vice President MIS, Lewis Bakeries, Inc.

BUSINESS ISSUE

Lewis Bakeries is the largest wholesale bakery in Indiana and one of the few remaining independent wholesale bakeries in the United States. In operation since 1925, it is known throughout the Midwest for its Healthy Life brand of breads, and nationally for its frozen bakery products.

For more than 20 years, Lewis has relied on an HP COBOL II application that was developed in house to run its business. The problem that Lewis faced was that its software ran on an HP e3000 system, which became costly to maintain and eventually unsupported. Lewis wanted to upgrade to an HP Itanium 64-bit processor running HP-UX.

SOLUTION

Lewis considered buying an off-the-shelf package to replace its software, but worried it would lose its ability to respond quickly to market demands, such as its customers' recent shift from pay-on-delivery to scan-based trading. It decided to search for a COBOL that supports the new platform. Lewis chose ACUCOBOL-GT for many reasons: it had all the functions needed to replicate its business system; its pricing structure was competitive; and its graphical user interface (GUI) screen features were impressive. In addition, Acucorp offered a graphical workbench and had proven longevity in the industry.

The baker hired Activant Speedware, a Montreal-based firm, for migration training. An internal team then used Speedware's AMXW tool (Automated Migration to UNIX or Windows) to convert applications

from HP COBOL II to ACUCOBOL-GT.

Although more than a million lines of code were converted, the team completed the migration three months ahead of schedule. This includes conversion of KSAM files to Acucorp's Vision file system.

BENEFITS

After rollout, employees were thrilled to see that applications were running the same in the new environment as they did in the old. The screens look and function the same. No retraining was required. According to Dan Coyle, Vice President MIS, users are reporting much better performance with virtually no lag time on the new system. Developers are benefiting too, finding it easy and intuitive to write or maintain code in Acucorp's graphical workbench, AcuBench.

By staying with COBOL, Lewis was able to retain its investment in its well-honed applications while lowering the total cost of ownership and eliminating the cost of retraining developers or users. The fact that the migration was completed ahead of schedule and under budget underscores the benefit of choosing ACUCOBOL-GT over alternatives.

FUTURE PLANS

Lewis plans to enhance the user experience of its programs by converting green screens to a GUI over time. It will display a GUI on UNIX using Acucorp's Thin Client technology. Coyle remarked, “ACUCOBOL-GT is such a powerful tool, whatever direction we go, Acucorp is sure to be a player.”

The new face of COBOL®

ACUCORP®

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