

The new face of COBOLSM**ACUCORP[®]**

Sharikat Khoo

“Sharikat Khoo has been very impressed with the development environment and support offered by Acucorp,” explains Mark Annabell, Managing Director of Sharikat Khoo. “We also appreciate the way that Acucorp communicates with its customers through a number of different channels including the company’s Web site, newsletters and conferences.”

Sharikat Khoo Fast Facts:

- Founded 1989
- Headquarters in Victoria, Australia
- Approximately 40 customers, varying in size from 3 to 35 users
- Approximately 75 percent of the customers are local government

Application:

- Local councils community services system providing bundled services for needy residents (i.e., home care, personal care, respite care, home maintenance & meals etc.)
- Private clients’ application software for home care services and food services

Acucorp Solutions:

- COBOL-based GUI development
- Distributed computing using Acucorp’s remote file server technology
- Access to COBOL data files from Windows-based applications

New Environments:

UNIX and Windows

Previous Environment:

HP MPE/iX

Previous COBOL:

HP 3000 COBOL II

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Business Issue

When Sharikat Khoo began selling its community services application, many of Australia’s local councils had proprietary systems running on a variety of platforms including Hewlett-Packard’s HP 3000, Digital Equipment Corporation’s VAX/VMS, IBM’s AS/400 and Unisys Corporation’s A Series. Sharikat Khoo developed a Community Services application to run on all these platforms and integrated it with the clients’ payroll and financial systems. Maintaining separate source code on each of these platforms became increasingly difficult, especially as the company’s product line and client base grew. When Sharikat Khoo’s users began moving to UNIX and Windows, a decision was made to consolidate the number of software platforms the company supported and offer a Windows version of their application to all clients, including HP 3000 users.

Solution

After beginning the migration process using MicroFocus COBOL, Sharikat Khoo switched to Acucorp’s ACUCOBOL[™] based on its speed of compilation and its ability to run the community services software on both MS-DOS and UNIX without recompiling, also the ability to easily move Vision files between the two environments facilitated both the initial and on-going development. Initially, the company’s HP 3000 customers were moved to MPE Posix. But, with a Windows GUI available, these customers were eventually migrated to Windows clients on Windows networks

and UNIX servers. The initial migration—which included approximately 950,000 lines of code in 730 programs, 200 input screens and 500 reports and update procedures with selection screens—took only six months and involved 3 programmers. Sharikat Khoo continued to maintain the system on other platforms until all clients were moved to the Acucorp version of their community services system.

Benefits

By moving their application off the HP 3000 and consolidating the number of platforms they supported, Sharikat Khoo was able to find a niche market for their community services system. This has allowed them to substantially increase their customer base and keep up with the constant changes required by the statutory and funding bodies. In addition, using ACUCOBOL-GT they have been able to continue to develop their application and integrate it with existing client payroll and financial systems—all while maintaining the peak performance levels they had come to expect.

Future Plans

Sharikat Khoo intends to further enhance their application by deploying on the Internet, incorporating electronic data interchange as well as utilize mobile computing with PDAs. The company will most definitely turn to Acucorp for these future endeavors, since Acucorp has offered its ISVs the ability to develop Windows products in COBOL.