DELTA
software
technology

Schorch

Modernisation:

Platform Change at the Push of a Button with ADSplus and SCOUT²

„We mastered the migration with our own IT team – without having to buy external services. The project did pay off in a very short time."

DR. ECKHARD OTTO, CIO,

SCHORCH, GERMANY

SCHORCH – DRIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE WORLD

Schorch is an electrical engineering manufacturer and specialises in the production of modern induction machines as individual components or as propulsion systems for all industrial and municipal applications. Another focus is the delivery of electrical systems and extensive support.

Schorch Elektrische Maschinen und Antriebe GmbH is located in Mönchengladbach, Germany, and has 500 employees. The company is part of the globally operating ATB group.

FROM MAINFRAME TO PC

Schorch transferred their *production management system* quickly, easily and securely from Fujitsu BS2000/OSD mainframe to a Microsoft Windows environment –using ADSplus Legacy Platform Development and SCOUT² Development Platform from Delta Software Technology.

OLD PLATFORMS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE

The *production management system* to control the machine and drive system production is a mission-critical application developed by Schorch that is very important for the successful work for the company. Since 1986, Schorch has invested large sums in building the *production management system* to exactly meet the requirements and needs of the 200 end-users.

The 750 online and 750 batch programs comprising a total of 12 million lines of COBOL code have been written using the software development system ADSplus from Delta Software Technology and ran for many years on Fujitsu mainframes (formerly Siemens) with operating system BS2000/OSD, COBOL85, TP-Monitor openUTM, mask system FHS and database SESAM SQL. ADSplus ensured that the applications are maintained platform-independently and are generated exactly for this target platform.

REPLACING THE BS2000 COMPUTER
- VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE - ESPECIALLY WITHOUT EXTERNAL HELP

The BS2000 mainframe should be replaced for financial reasons. In order to keep the competitive advantage, Schorch made the strategic decision to not replace the *production management system* by standard software but to keep the approved functionality of their existing business-critical applications and to continue using them.

So the task was to migrate the applications to Microsoft Windows – both the production as well as the development environment. This inevitably meant the replacement of all infrastructure components:

- operating system,
- COBOL compiler,
- TP monitor,
- mask system,
- database and, of course, the
- BS2000/OSD-based development environment.

A huge challenge that would have meant a high risk, hard to calculate costs or even a re-writing of the applications for other companies.

THE HURDLE THAT DID NOT EXIST!

Not for Schorch, the authors of the *production management system* already had recognized the advantages of the application development with the generative Delta tools: "Single Source - Multiple Targets"

- Programming and specifying on a neutral layer – independent of operating system, compiler, TP monitor and database

- and automatically generating COBOL programs from these specifications that are perfectly tailored to the respective platform conditions.

Schorch's quality management had always ensured that the applications did not contain any system-dependent code. Thereby, the benefits of the platform independence took effect to its full extent.

PLATFORM MIGRATION FOR THE APPLICATIONS

Schorch chose Fujitsu NetCOBOL for Microsoft Windows as compiler and MySQL as database. The corresponding ADSplus target from Delta Software Technology made it possible to simply re-generate the existing applications for the new Windows platform – without having to modify them.

As part of the online support, ADSplus provides a console application that covers the functions of a TP monitor on Microsoft Windows and also replaces a mask handling system. In this way, Schorch could waive openUTM and the FHS mark formats without any problems. The neutral mask definitions of the *production management system* just needed to be re-generated.

Schorch had developed their own access routines to access the SESAM SQL database and had cleanly encapsulated them using ADSplus. Now, Schorch only replaced the routines within the capsule to access the new MySQL database. The logical view of the applications on to data remained unchanged.

PLATFORM MIGRATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT

By leaving the mainframe, Schorch additionally faced the task to migrate from BS2000/OSD to Windows with their familiar development environment as well. Check in / check out, editing, generating, compiling, testing, working with and in the grown project structures – the developers should be bothered as less as possible.

SCOUT² Development Platform not only made this step easy, but the work also became even more efficient and the productivity has been increased. After the source management system and the COBOL compiler had been integrated and the Schorch-specific workflow processes and functions had been mapped, a comfortable development environment presented itself to the developers covering all tasks of the migration project and the future maintenance of the applications.

"This project showed us that with ADSplus from Delta Software Technology we truly have a piece of gold. Basically, the platform change was a push of a button."

Gerd Dietrich
Application Development Manager
Schorch, Germany

THE ADVANTAGES

- The significant investments that Schorch had made for the *production management system* have been completely protected. The existing ADSplus applications could be continued to be used unchanged on the new Microsoft Windows platform.

- By leaving the mainframe, the operating costs had been reduced significantly. The migration project paid off in a very short time.

- According to the principle "Separation of Concerns" both ADSplus and SCOUT² Development Platform ensure a strict separation of the logical view on the projects and applications on the one hand, and the technical implementation and platform-specific infrastructure on the other hand. That saved Schorch time and money and provided quality because the developers could continue to focus on the business logic of the *production management system*.

ADSplus™ - Legacy Platform Development

ADSplus is Delta's reliable and approved platform independent application development solution for online and batch programs. ADSplus enables you to develop, maintain and support COBOL and PL/I applications independent of platform specific aspects such as operating system, database management system and TP monitor.

Building on the proven technologies of Delta/ADS™ and Delta/DBI™, ADSplus enables software development for legacy platforms with object-oriented methodology in accordance to the latest architectural principles.

Generative and Platform Independent

- **Object-Based Database Integration:** ADSplus supports the creation of database independent data servers that execute persistent object storage for batch and online applications.

- **Online Development:** ADSplus supports the creation of character-based online applications to be deployed on mainframes, UNIX and PC platforms. Sophisticated tools facilitate the creation of "CRUD" functionality being an important element of most online business applications.

- **Batch Development:** Many development projects contain a significant batch element. ADSplus is the ideal solution for the creation of efficient and platform independent application programs and utilities.

SCOUT²™ Development Platform

SCOUT² Development Platform improves the efficiency of the software development in multi-platform environments. SCOUT² simplifies complex development processes by smoothly and transparently integrating very different development environments, legacy tools, platforms, methods and processes for mainframes, UNIX and PC into clear and well defined project structures.

SCOUT² is the tool of choice for all project teams working with multiple platforms, toolsets and source management systems.

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