ITC Rehosts Air Force Mainframe Development System in Four Days Frees Capacity for Critical Production Work

Information Technology Company

case study

In four days, Information Technology Company, LLC (ITC) migrated a mission-critical United States Air Force development system from an IBM® z114 mainframe to a compatible Enterprise class System ReDD™ server.

The Air Force Equipment Management System (AFEMS) operates a worldwide accessible, dedicated, integrated, transaction-driven processing system providing accountability and management of approximately $38B worth of equipment in retail and wholesale environments.

AFEMS, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH, is the system of record for equipment management capabilities worldwide, automating processing and producing timely/accurate data. Its centralized capability determines, authorizes, accounts for, provides visibility to, manages, and reports on equipment and information technology (IT) assets supporting Air Force missions.

With more than 20 developers using CICS®, JAVA™, and Serena® databases, ITC's rehosting offloaded AFEMS development work from the production system, providing demonstrably better access to data and more direct control over the user environment while freeing a mainframe logical partition (LPAR).

The ITC-integrated IBM Rational™ RD&T 1091 technology provides a rich solution offering significant fail-safe redundancy and performance features matching customer goals.

Inherent flexibility of System ReDD's integrated desktop development tools lets AFEMS easily support new environments, allowing developing and testing cloud applications using Rational RDz with JAVA or COBOL.

ITC transparently migrated and activated more than a dozen third-party software products -- including the CA-TopSecret® security manager -- providing system and application operation identical to that on the big-iron platform. A happy user commented that the System ReDD environment "looks just like the other system."

After being recruited by IBM for a sole-source contract, ITC responded quickly and worked closely with AFEMS' prime contractor, MacAulay-Brown, Inc. (www.macb.com) establishing requirements and schedules necessary for success within a very constrained 30-day completion timeframe.

Chris Tarkany, MacAulay-Brown Project Manager, said, "We had critical deadlines for project completion so we needed to move efficiently. The ITC solution was ideal since it was configured and ready to go when expected. We had a strong desire to keep the z114 look and feel; ITC accomplished that and more. Developers saw no change; even the systems programming team is comfortable with ITC technology features such as the HMC implementation."

ITC delivered the ready-to-run system in two weeks; four days later it was operating on the customer's secure network with all user data migrated (82 3390 DASD volumes).

Mark Wheeler, Mainframe System Administrator, commented, "An important feature is being able to snapshot all System z® logical volumes to a portable USB drive. ITC's fast and reliable tool captured our complete image in less than four hours. That's not bad for handling over one hundred fifty 3390 volumes."

Wheeler also appreciated ITC's sending experts on-site to provide integration and task management. "Intimately knowing System z hardware and software, they migrated our development workload faster than we expected," he said, "and having them on-site was a huge risk mitigation factor that we welcomed."

Since its formation, Information Technology Company, LLC (ITC) has pioneered the way in solving clients' real world IT issues with quality of service and sound technology. Having been intimately involved with IBM and mainframe emulation technology for more than two decades, it's a one-stop provider of all-things System z, including being the exclusive worldwide distribution channel for IBM 1090 zPDT® technology.

Extensive research and analysis of customer environments ensures the right solutions, satisfying clients by exceeding quality expectations and delivering projects on time and budget. ITC's commitment to continuous IT research and development arena is invaluable and unparalleled.

This increased value is the cornerstone of ITC's success in delivering innovative alternatives and solutions to customers

Migration By the Numbers

2 ITC Staff members assigned to the project.

4 Days allocated for the project implementation at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

12 Third party software applications activated successfully on the new development platform including products from CA Technologies, Cincom®, Compuware®, FDR®, Landmark®, Serena, and Syncsort®.

29 Hours total time on customer site performing migration and configuration tasks.

32 Spare/Empty 3390-54 volumes for growth.

61 3390 volumes of z/OS 1.3 system data.

98 3390 volumes of customer data.

159 Logical volumes migrated from an IBM DS6800 via FTP using a dedicated OSA port on the z114 in three and a half hours.

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