

Casegen Case Study – SEB

When one of Northern Europe's largest financial institutions were looking for an alternative development tool to CA Telon, TSG proved that CaseGen Enterprise, offering the same application design and generation functionality as Telon but at a much lower cost, was up to the job.

About SEB

SEB is one of Northern Europe's leading financial groups. Employing over 21,000 people in 21 countries, and with 660 branch offices, the SEB Group provide specialist expertise within all financial areas.

Problem

The licensing cost of CA Telon

Solution

An alternative development tool
Converting Telon code into COBOL

Benefits

Lower licensing costs
Compatibility with Mainframe Express environment
Availability of COBOL source code

THE PROBLEM

SEB were using CA Telon to develop programs on the mainframe. However, the pricing structure for Telon licences was such that they were paying considerably more money to have the tool than could be justified by its use, especially as the Telon systems were only used by a small percentage of the business.

Furthermore, having recently invested in Mainframe Express from Micro Focus, SEB ideally wanted to migrate to a development tool that would work within the Mainframe Express environment, to increase the return on their recent investment.

THE SOLUTION

TSG provided SEB with CaseGen Enterprise which is similar to Telon, but is considerably cheaper and runs on a PC. They also migrated all of the existing Telon applications over to the CaseGen product.

As well as being less expensive, the quality of CaseGen Enterprise was considered by SEB to be higher than Telon. Bo Ragnarsson, IT Specialist for Development Environments at SEB suggests that the development tool was 'even better than CA Telon.' commenting that 'the code generated by CaseGen is much better than the Telon code because it's COBOL II notated and indented'.

Although CaseGen was considered to be superior to Telon, similarities between the two products enabled the SEB developers to learn how to use CaseGen very quickly with minimal impact on their daily workload.

CaseGen was used to generate a new set of programs at the source code level, without any licensed components. This gave SEB the option of retiring CaseGen at any point in the future and maintaining the COBOL code directly instead. Thanks to the availability of this source code, there was no longer an issue with having licensed components running exclusively on the mainframe, so the entire set of applications could be maintained within the Mainframe Express environment.

THE OUTCOME

SEB received a superior development tool and made a cost saving by migrating from Telon to CaseGen Enterprise. A technical upside was that CaseGen Enterprise eliminated undesired runtime modules that were required by Telon. Ragnarsson comments 'We now have a much better tool. No licensed runtime modules/black boxes anymore and we have the complete source code to everything. CaseGen Enterprise is a perfect match with Mainframe Express that allows us to bring all development and maintenance to the PC instead of the mainframe.'

And the service that TSG provided was also praised. Ragnarsson describes it as being 'more or less perfect' and cites the fast delivery of converted source code and on-site training provided by TSG as major factors in his satisfaction. He also praised TSG for their high standard of service, saying that 'the TSG staff had a very good knowledge of Telon and quickly knew the causes of any problems that came up'.

IN SUMMARY

SEB made cost savings by investing in CaseGen Enterprise to replace their CA Telon development tool. The ability to perform development and maintenance off the mainframe, and the availability of the original source code provided additional long term benefits. The conversion was done quickly with minimal impact on the day to day operation of the business.

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