CA-Telon Conversion – Sky Deutschland

With only one system remaining on the IBM Mainframe, Sky Deutschland realised they could make a significant cost saving by moving that system into a new environment. After carefully considering a few options, they approached TSG Software who presented a unique way of achieving their goal, with some additional productivity gains and cost savings along the way.

About Sky Deutschland

Sky Deutschland AG is the leading pay-TV provider in Germany and Austria with more than 3.9 million subscribers and revenues amounting to 1.7 billion Euros. The MDAX-listed company offers subscription television as well as on-demand services for private and business customers.

THE PROBLEM

As Sky Deutschland's business had developed over the years, so too had their IT infrastructure. So much so, that by 2014 they had only one system left on the IBM Mainframe, where previously there had been many. Sky Deutschland's IT management realised that it was not cost effective to continue to maintain an IBM Mainframe for just one system, and sought a solution that would allow them to migrate away from the mainframe, while at the same time keep the existing system running.
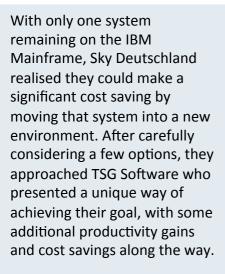
Having one system on an IBM Mainframe was not the only problem though. An additional consideration was that the system running on the mainframe was written in CA-Telon, and Sky were having to pay annual licencing costs to keep the system running. Not only that, but the dwindling pool of developers skilled in the CA-Telon language was putting further financial pressure on the business. They needed a solution that would ultimately eliminate both the need for an IBM Mainframe, and also the CA-Telon licencing costs.

"The project was handled in a very professional way…we felt we had a very experienced partner with huge knowledge in the mainframe environment."

Torben Jensen, IT Director

To achieve this goal Sky had a few options. Firstly, they could have rewritten the system that was running on the mainframe from scratch. This would have allowed them to move the system off the IBM Mainframe entirely, but would have been extremely costly and very time consuming. The second option was to convert the CA-Telon programs to another language such as native COBOL and keep them running on the mainframe. This would have allowed them to eliminate the CA-Telon licence costs, but would not have allowed them to migrate the applications away from the IBM Mainframe, and would leave the programmers maintaining the COBOL at the Cobol code level, which is much slower than using a development tool. Such a compromise was not an option at that time.

THE SOLUTION

Neither of the solutions considered up to this point were without their flaws, and Sky needed a more robust solution. So, in order to fully achieve their desired goal of eliminating the reliance on an IBM Mainframe and removing the CA-Telon licencing costs, Sky consulted with TSG Software who advised that there was a third option available. Instead of rewriting the systems for the Linux Oracle environment, TSG developers would convert the existing system into Casegen, a full replacement for CA-Telon, and then regenerate all the systems for the Microfocus Enterprise Server Oracle environment. The result would be a like-for-like system to what had previously been on the IBM Mainframe, but running on Linux against an Oracle database.

Problem
- **Cost ineffectiveness of having one system remaining on IBM Mainframe**
- **Ongoing costs of IBM Mainframe environment**
- **Licencing costs of CA-Telon written programs and runtime modules**

Solution
- **Migrate old system from the IBM Mainframe environment onto Microfocus Enterprise Server in Oracle environment**
- **Convert to Casegen Enterprise and re-generate the programs for the new environment**

Benefits
- **Eliminated CA-Telon licencing costs**
- **Eliminated IBM Mainframe costs**
- **Redeployed existing developer talent**

CA-Telon Conversion – Sky Deutschland

Using their 25 years' experience of system migrations, TSG worked to convert the CA-Telon systems over to Casegen, and then to regenerate the applications using Casegen options that would allow them to run on the Microfocus Enterprise Server in an Oracle environment. This eliminated the need for the IBM Mainframe, and took away the licencing costs of the CA-Telon system. Furthermore, because Casegen is similar to the CA-Telon development tool used in the IBM Mainframe environment, the existing developers could be retained and redeployed on the system in its new environment.

THE OUTCOME

The goal was achieved, and Sky now has the original system running on the Microfocus Enterprise Server, in an Oracle environment. The IBM Mainframe cost was eliminated, and the CA-Telon costs reduced to nothing. All the programs had been re-generated for the new environment using Casegen, which meant they were licence cost free, and the productivity of existing developers had been maintained.

Torben Jensen, Director IT-Development for Sky Deutschland, was complimentary toward the way that TSG handled the project, stating "The project was done in a very professional way. Throughout the project we felt we had a very experienced partner with huge knowledge of the mainframe environment and their own product."

IN SUMMARY

With only one system running on the IBM Mainframe Sky Deutschland realised they had an opportunity to make a significant cost saving by moving that system into a new environment. With the help of TSG Software they were able to identify a way of migrating the system onto a Microfocus Enterprise Server, running on Linux against an Oracle database. This allowed them to cease paying for the IBM Mainframe and, furthermore, by converting the programs into Casegen Enterprise and re-generating them for the new environment, eliminate the CA-Telon licencing costs.

One of the developers working on the project is quoted as saying: "Casegen

provides a great replacement for CA-Telon. The Telon developers feel comfortable with it, and it is much easier to learn and to use. It is a beautiful, and much more efficient, development environment than CA-Telon."

CONTACT TSG SOFTWARE
0333 666 3090
contactus@tsg.co.uk
www.tsg.co.uk