



Veryant, the COBOL technology innovator

Evolution, without revolution



Digital System Computers Customers' management information systems

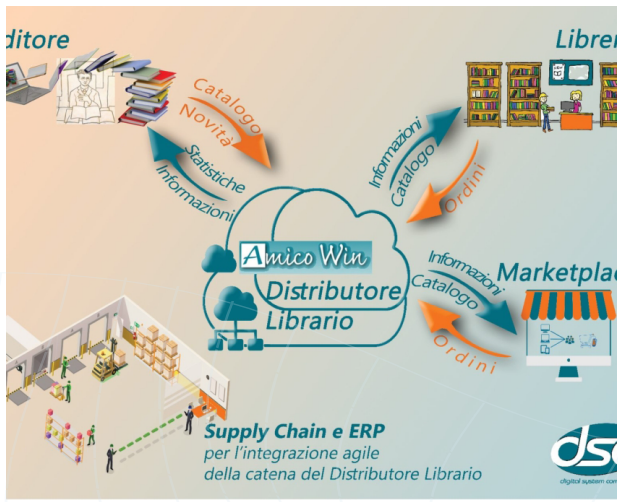
CASE STUDY

Legnano Milan - Italy

Amico Win
Edit

Amico Win
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For over 40 years, Digital System Computers Srl (DSC) has been offering its expertise in the ICT field to private and public companies, improving their customers’ management information systems (ERP2) and providing technical, systems and outsourcing services.

Since its inception in 1981, DSC has maintained a COBOL-oriented path, even when the appeal of other programming languages offered modern features. Instead, DSC focused on keeping their COBOL asset and using the technological innovation capacity of COBOL. After trying various compilers (Blis/Cobol, RM/Cobol, and Acucobol), in 2006 DSC found what they needed in isCOBOL.

Business driver

AmicoWin is the name of DSC’s software. It’s an ERP management software focused on production, service and commercial businesses. The software handles all ERP areas from budgeting to general and analytical accounting. The most popular vertical market for AmicoWin is in the publishing world, where this superior solution is used by publishers and book distributors.

DSC found isCOBOL by Veryant was a good fit for them for many reasons. It was important to be able to innovate their software solution to keep up with the times, while ensuring continuity with the past. DSC wanted to give AmicoWin a well-functioning graphical user interface (GUI) with a modern look & feel, and change their architecture to make the application more powerful and flexible. Also, their customers were asking for a database-oriented solution that would offer interoperability with data analysis tools.

“ We are constantly projected to improve our product, trying to make the most of all the features that isCOBOL makes available to us. The technical support provided by the Veryant staff; trained, competent and always very available people, is fundamental ”

Gregory L.
U.S. Army Europe and Africa
Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Solution

DSC knew that making such a strategic choice to change their COBOL application could have a significant impact on the fate of the company; either a positive impact if the solution they adopted confirmed all expectations, or a negative impact if their choice turned out to be completely inadequate. Therefore DSC considered other alternatives before making their final decision.

The first alternative they considered was to rewrite in another programming language. This option was quickly discarded because it would have required enormous resources for retraining their staff and rewriting the entire software package.

Highlights

- Modernized trusted ERP application with new thin client access options
- Enhanced user interface and data access capabilities while avoiding a risky application rewrite
- Provided cross-platform portability with a single code base

The second option was to stay with their current COBOL environment, Acucobol. However, recent changes made by the new owner of ACUCOBOL-GT (MicroFocus) did not give DSC sufficient confidence in future developments of the software.

After these considerations, DSC decided the best alternative was to switch to Veryant's isCOBOL. In just over two years they gave new life to AmicoWin by changing its UI to a modern graphical interface and restructuring it to be executable in a three-tier architecture, as well as adding the ability to integrate with a variety of the most popular relational databases, including Oracle, MySQL, MariaDB. The migration from Acucobol to isCOBOL Evolve was almost painless. DSC discovered that isCOBOL had a very high degree of compatibility with Acucobol. This was due to both the constant efforts of Veryant's developers to increase compatibility in every version, and to the unique ability of the isCOBOL compiler to adjust code during compilation based on external configurations rather than manual code changes.

The main criticality occurred in the initial phase of the migration and was linked to response times, but the release of new versions of isCOBOL (and Java) and a targeted "tuning" activity with the help of Veryant's technical staff allowed the application to successfully overcome the performance gap.

Today AmicoWin is equipped with a modern-looking graphic interface, running in a thin client architecture and accessing a Relational database. It's also suitable for running in a cloud-based environment if DSC decides to do that in the future.

Future plans

The path taken with Veryant allowed DSC to provide its customers with an innovative, solid and well performing solution. It also allowed the AmicoWin software to evolve towards an increasingly "Cloud Oriented" position, because of the continuous technological updates of isCOBOL. The challenge for DSC in the next few years will be to obtain the maximum technological advantages with the minimum effort in order to continually keep their software solution updated and competitive.

WHY VERYANT?

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Alfredo Guidali
CTO

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