



Veryant, the COBOL technology innovator

Evolution, without revolution



**i-Modulas Bedrijfsadministraties B.V.**  
ERP Software

**CASE STUDY**

Ridderkerk , South Holland



The screenshot shows a software window titled 'Verhuurartikelen' with a menu bar containing 'F4:Info', 'Sort:kenmerk', 'KOLOMKRANSARM', and 'Assortiment'. Below the menu bar, there are several tabs: '09:Bezetting', '10:Hist. mutaties', '11:Handelingen', '12:Retourinstructies', '13:Brochures', '14:Afbeeldingen', '01:Stamgegevens', '02:Voorraad', '03:Samenstelling', '04:Concurrenten', '05:Inkoop', '06:Calculatie', '07:Kosten', and '08:Onziet'. The main area displays a table of 'Geprognoseerde kosten per stuk' (Estimated costs per unit) for a rental item 'Kolomkransarm type 2 (40-90cm)'. The table has columns for 'Code', 'Tartiefondendeel', 'Grtbrektr', 'Over looptijd', 'Verdeling', 'Per jaar', and 'Per dag'. The total cost is 20,26 per unit, with a 100% margin.

Code	Tartiefondendeel	Grtbrektr	Over looptijd	Verdeling	Per jaar	Per dag
1	Afsluitingen	6001	14,79	73,00%	14,79	0,049
2	Renteverlies	6002	0,44	2,17%	0,44	0,001
3	Verzekering-Mat	6003	0,15	0,74%	0,15	0,001
4	Opslagkosten	6004	1,48	7,31%	1,48	0,005
5	Rep & Onderhoud	6005	0,44	2,17%	0,44	0,001
6	Algemene Kosten	6006	2,96	14,61%	2,96	0,010
7	Keuringen	6007				
8		6008				
Totaal*			20,26	100,00%	20,26	0,067

i-Modulas Software knew it was becoming increasingly important to offer Java technology and a user-friendly GUI with the company's trusted ERP software, yet remain platform independent. Both modern technology and multiple platforms were going to be necessary for the company to continue growing; without these options, customers might turn to other ERP software vendors. As the company considered options, it found that only Very- ant's isCOBOL Evolve was able to help retain i-Modulas' valuable legacy COBOL applications and offer its customers the modern technology advantages of Java on multiple platforms.

## SaaS helps rental businesses

i-Modulas Software BV offers specialized ERP software for rental companies and project-based organizations. The software provides fast and accurate insight into business processes, financial records, inventory, purchasing, sales, service management, and project administration. Using a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) model, i-Modulas offers an Internet-based software rental option to insure that complex organizations with multiple offices, warehouses, and other facilities can provide the right information for hundreds of employees to work together simultaneously. The software's modular structure also enables independent work for individuals or small groups.

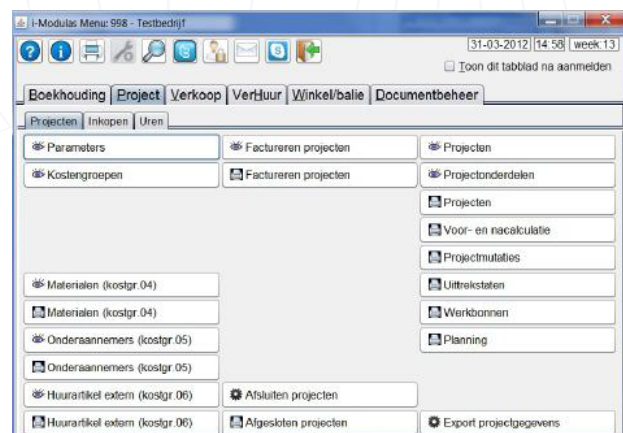
Access via the Internet means that all necessary employees, whether at their home location or traveling, have easy, instant access to current, important data.

“ I love the Debugger. After migrating to Java, I expected to have to debug Java code,” explained van Oevelen. “I was amazed when I started debugging my first isCOBOL programs and found out I could continue to debug in COBOL, something I've been used to for 30 years.”

The i-Modulas software suite consists of several modules: i-Modulas Basic for financials, i-Modulas Desk for retail and rental businesses, i-Modulas Sales, i-Modulas Rental, i-Modulas Project, and i-Modulas Mini-Office for personal productivity.

## Modern ERP for company growth

i-Modulas had been planning to modernize its software by adding Java technology and offering users a friendly GUI to represent text-based information in an easier-to-understand format for viewing business data. Originally using character-based COBOL, the software was platform independent, which was important for i-Modulas to appeal to a greater share of the ERP software market. However, the company really wanted a solution that was not only platform independent, but would also provide access via the Internet, offer a friendly GUI, and be compatible enough to offer a speedy migration and give them the ability to quickly update the application's GUI..



When i-Modulas looked into options to meet these needs, it found that most solutions tied the software to a specific platform. They didn't want to trade platform independence for modern technology. Winning new customers without a solution that met all of its stated criteria would be much more challenging.

As an interim step, the company used ACUCOBOL-GT® to offer Web integration, but because the ACUCOBOL thin client model only supported Windows, i-Modulas had to rely upon an outdated terminal emulator to run on Linux. It was costly for the firm to put extra staff resources into maintaining different platform deployment options with the software.

Using ACUCOBOL-GT also restricted i-Modulas to using dated CGI technology for Web programming. i-Modulas found CGI programs to be slow and resource intensive because they require significant memory and processing resources to execute.

When i-Modulas learned that isCOBOL Evolve could support a character-based interface and meet all of its needs, the company knew it had found the right solution. isCOBOL technology enabled i-Modulas to quickly move from using cumbersome CGI programs to 'next generation' Java Servlets for its Web programming needs.

## Highlights

- Preserved COBOL assets and reduced COBOL licensing costs
- Provided the modern technology advantages of Java
- Insured cross-platform portability and Web-enablement
- Offered enhanced graphical user interface (GUI) capabilities

Java Servlets provided i-Modulas a stateful, multi-threaded solution that improved end user response times across the Internet. In addition to meeting i-Modulas' stated criteria, Veryant offered a very easy-to-use and affordable solution that would provide a stable future for the company's software.

## Veryant helps i-Modulas reach goal

The i-Modulas application consists of 200 online COBOL programs and 200 batch COBOL programs, with 200 files, 500 screens, and 1.8 million lines of code. The applications support functions such as planning, sales, rental, accounting/finance, buying, equipment maintenance, shop management, and customer service, in a variety of industries, including financial services, retail, construction, equipment manufacturing, and more.

The company easily completed the migration to isCOBOL and had its first users online within a year. Today, all users are on the Java technology. Most of the modernization project was accomplished by an i-Modulas developer, who was trained by Veryant's technical specialists. i-Modulas reached its goals of cross-platform application portability, Java technology, an updated GUI, and now enjoys easier installation of software. René vanOevelen, software architect, said the Veryant team has been very helpful and very responsive.

### WHY VERYANT?

By using isCOBOL Evolve, we can offer SaaS without having to install proprietary software and platform-specific client software. In addition, Veryant lets us update our existing applications and development products very affordably

*René van Oevelen*  
software architect



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