veryant

Evolution, without revolution

Veryant, the COBOL technology innovator

Small business customers and government agencies benefit from change to isCOBOL

Milan, Italy

Benefit from change to isCOBOL

When a leader in providing administrative software applications to local governments and small and medium-sized businesses in Italy since 1980 wanted to offer a Java version of its COBOL application, they turned to Veryant. Veryant's isCOBOL Evolve was used to add Java capability, preserve COBOL assets, and remove uncertainty over support and pricing from their previous COBOL supplier.

Business Goals

This well-respected company wanted to introduce the benefits of Java to its customers by offering a Java version of its existing application to end users. The addition of Java to an existing COBOL application would provide an extremely robust solution to simplify development, administration, and implementation tasks, and ease application modernization efforts. Current customers could keep their sizable investments in the COBOL-based application, and gain the flexibility of Java. New customers would have the choice of adopting either technology, giving the company additional competitive advantage in the market.

In addition to offering new technology, there was an urgent need to reduce COBOL licensing costs, which were rising quickly and unpredictably. With cost pressures mounting for its customers, especially government agencies and small businesses, it was important to offer a cost-effective solution.

Veryant selected as best COBOL

Though they had previously used ACUCOBOL-GT® , the company knew that was not a viable long-term solution.

Another COBOL vendor had acquired Acucorp, Inc, and the acquiring company's past practices with acquisitions included cancelling the product, reducing support, and rapidly increasing license fees. They didn't want to be caught in this changing environment that could affect its core business

The company decided to move its application with 14,000 online and batch COBOL programs to isCOBOL. Veryant offered the most portable and cost-effective solution with the best technology and ease-of-use. Veryant has had proven success in helping companies worldwide extend their valuable enterprise application assets by blending the optimized, business-oriented nature of COBOL with the openness, portability, and power of the Java platform, without requiring businesses to retrain staff or rewrite code.

With isCOBOL, the company could retain its core business logic that has proven so valuable to their customers for nearly 30 years. At the same time, they can offer their customers a user-friendly, portable environment that extends to many platforms. Though the application was originally deployed in a UNIX environment, isCOBOL offered platform independence and flexibility for future development. Because the isCOBOL Runtime Framework is written completely in Java, COBOL application developers can develop and deploy across many platforms, including AIX, HP-UX, Solaris, Linux, Windows, Mac OS, and mainframe systems, using a single code base.

> *We considered Veryant the best solution for maintaining our existing applications and expanding to new technology and absolutely trusted the people who worked for Veryant.*
>
> *Vice President and Technical Director*

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New Veryant environment

The company chose several components of isCOBOL SDK including the Application Server for distributed processing and isCOBOL Web Direct.

To move the application to isCOBOL, the company relied on its internal IT team of very experienced COBOL developers. The migration project was quick and efficient, especially with the feature-rich management utilities of isCOBOL and the assistance of Veryant experts, who have years of experience in helping customers move their applications with minimal effort.

The company's current environment now includes the c-treeRTG, a high capacity, scalable, transactional client/server indexed file system. For its relational database needs, the company uses DBMaker and in one instance, Oracle. Within the complex application, there are 5,000 screens, 1,800 files, and eleven million lines of code. Users access the application directly from their desktops from a web browser.

Java solution proves successful

The company is pleased to have the innovative Java option added to its valued COBOL asset of many years. They've created new business agility by moving to isCOBOL; the application is more competitive because of its extended offering and switching to Veryant has reduced costs. In addition, they've realized better use of its resources through the partnership with Veryant. When there are questions, the Veryant response is always very quick, qualified, and comprehensive, noted a company VP.

The decision to use isCOBOL Evolve from Veryant is expected to serve this vibrant company and its customers for many years, with added flexibility and options for new technologies, and, of course, its highly-valued application.

Highlights

- Added Java deployment platform for ease-of-use, portability, and new technology integration
- Preserved investment in existing COBOL application
- Eliminated risk of uncertain product support and higher licensing fees

WHY VERYANT?

Opening up our application to Java has proven easy, fast, and efficient with isCOBOL. We are now able to deliver powerful multi-platform user interfaces to our customers and have been extremely pleased by the talented, responsive team at Veryant."

Vice President

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