



INDUSTRY

Financial Services

PROJECT

Modernize a legacy PowerBuilder v11 workflow application to Java JSF, Spring and Hibernate.

CLIENT PROFILE

The world's foremost provider of independent credit ratings, indices, risk evaluations, investment research data and valuations.

CHALLENGE

This client had an existing workflow application created with PowerBuilder v11. The foremost challenge was proving that the business users of the system would not lose functionality, or business processing capabilities when the application was moved to the strategic platform based on JEE technologies, JSF/Spring and Hibernate working with an Oracle 11g database. This was critical because the business users truly loved the existing system and did not want to lose it.

Our challenge was trying to extract the business logic and re-use the core logic in the new application framework while maintaining a similar, if not cleaner, look and feel of the legacy application.

SOLUTION

Vgo conducted this project as a consulting service, using its ART product to extract business rules and other meta-data from the PowerBuilder application. Vgo conducted business process mapping and the rule output from ART was associated to recreate a full business process re-engineering artifact. This design input was used to create the process framework which supported the subsequent build effort. Using ART, Vgo quickly identified important "hooks" into other platforms used for data exchange and host execution calls. By proactively identifying these hooks with ART, Vgo was able to implement practical solutions for each in the new environment.

Actually modernizing the application to Java, the team used the Evo product to assist in generating some aspects of the application architecture, emphasizing consistency in the architecture framework. This "lift" allowed the development team to focus on the work of integrating and re-using processing rules effectively. The team, consisting of three developers, two architects/designers and a technical leader, drove important strategic technical direction by ensuring re-use, modularity and perhaps most importantly, a clean and supportable application architecture.

RESULT

The project was an enormous success, coming in well under budget and within the timeframe expected by the client. By using ART to its fullest, Vgo was able to proactively identify the main challenge points of the conversion and address those challenges early in the process. This kept the client in the loop at all times and able to participate in the conversion activities vs. reacting to "surprises" as they happen. The JEE implementation is completely supportable by the client.