



INDUSTRY

HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS

PROJECT

Support the migration of Sybase to Oracle, with a focus on a large PowerBuilder v7 application that needed to work with Oracle 11g. Also, existing Java applications and an enterprise portal had to be made Oracle-compliant.

CLIENT PROFILE

The client is a leading provider of revenue and payment cycle management and clinical data exchange solutions in the U.S. healthcare system. They integrate and automate administrative functions of its payer and provider customers throughout the patient administration life-cycle.

CHALLENGE

The client had executed an acquisition of a solutions firm to augment their existing healthcare information solutions. The acquired company had built their product set using UDB as the backend database and PowerBuilder on the front-end processing application. The client had set its strategic direction to Oracle. Vgo was asked to remediate the application layer in order to work with Oracle vs. UDB on the backend and port the database. Several Java applications and an integration portal were also in the scope of this effort.

SOLUTION

Using its ART product, Vgo was able to quickly identify data types, windows, and other associated components in PowerBuilder, Java and supporting batch scripts in order to estimate the effort involved in moving to Oracle.

Using the pin-point accuracy only ART can provide, Vgo consultants worked through the remediation effort quickly and efficiently. "Remediating" the code entailed changing not only the impacted code, but also understanding and adjusting processing flow, in some cases, to perform against Oracle.

Additionally, the database itself was ported from UDB to Oracle. The scope of work was focused on moving database objects (tables, indices, keys, etc.), data and procedural logic. The database consisted of +500 tables and over 750GB of data. The procedural layer consisted of +200 procedural units converted to Oracle PL/SQL. Some procedural logic was also identified and converted to move to a Java implementation in order to run more effectively in the middle tier.

Along the way, the clients own staff had to become acclimated to the new architecture that was now their responsibility. Vgo helped to put in place necessary governance, change management and development policies and practices that formed the base line for the client to support the application, post-launch.

RESULT

The project was implemented successfully, meeting critical time and budget milestones. The best practices implemented were adopted as standard development practice by the client. Now running against the Oracle platform, the client observed +55% performance gains on transactional processing, much greater platform stability and reduced risk of support issues arising from its legacy platform.