

CASE STUDY

Apria Healthcare Simplifies Multi-Platform Change Management

Industry

Healthcare

Challenge

The IT group needed a better way to manage PeopleSoft and LANSAs customization and increase control of day-to-day development.

Results

- Automated PeopleSoft and LANSAs software customization and integration
- Gained comprehensive control of change processes
- Simplified management of critical product distribution applications

Products

- Rocket® Aldon Harmonizer
- Rocket® Aldon Lifecycle Manager (IBM i Edition)

Application

- Software Change Management
- IT Compliance

Company

Headquartered in Lake Forest, California, Apria Healthcare is a leading provider of integrated home healthcare products and services. Through a network of more than 9,700 health professionals in more than 480 branch offices across the United States, Apria is committed to providing full-service homecare solutions that give maximum independence to 1.2 million patients nationwide. The company's full range of services includes home respiratory therapy, home infusion therapy, and home medical equipment. Apria was the first homecare provider accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and is regulated by numerous government agencies.

Challenge

The IT group at Apria discovered Rocket Software products when Apria, then known as Homedco, needed to automate the process of integrating its custom modifications into new PeopleSoft releases. The company chose Rocket® Aldon Harmonizer, the most widely used source compare and merge tool for IBM i application development. The IT group confirmed the Rocket solution made comparing source code fast and simple.

As development efforts grew, Apria IT realized it needed comprehensive automation and control for all of its day-to-day development efforts. Once again, the company turned to Rocket Software for assistance. Apria installed Rocket® Aldon Lifecycle Manager (IBM i Edition), a comprehensive change management system built exclusively for IBM i developers. Over the years, Apria found this control of PeopleSoft environments to be invaluable. Impressed with the quality of the tool and the service provided by Rocket technical support, Apria began incorporating all of its IBM i development into the Rocket change management framework.

In addition to using the PeopleSoft World package, Apria IT was also a LANSAs shop. For many years, the company had used a different vendor to manage its traditional IBM i LANSAs application development. While Apria's PeopleSoft developers were very pleased with the Rocket solution support they received from Rocket, the LANSAs developers were still struggling.



Solution

Apria soon discovered that Rocket Aldon Lifecycle Manager for the IBM i environment (LMI) offered LANSA integration and was the only effective integrated solution for managing Visual LANSA.

During implementation of the new system, the company needed to replace several different change management tools and processes. "The implementation was relatively smooth," said Apria analyst Kevin McLatchie. "[The Rocket consulting team] spent a week at Apria, assisted with the design and configuration of our environments in Rocket Aldon Lifecycle Manager, and provided onsite training and presentations to our developers."

Results

According to McLatchie, the best feature of the product's multi-platform change management solution was its ease of use, especially in terms of installation, setup, and actual usage. He also valued the visibility and single point of observation that LMI provided. "As the solutions administrator, I find the Rocket Aldon Lifecycle Manager interface very useful because it allows me to see all work in progress—all from one screen."

For more than a decade, Apria has relied on Rocket Aldon software development tools to simplify the management of its sophisticated and critical product distribution applications. Today, Apria uses LMI to manage application development for many of its business functions, from financials and inventory with PeopleSoft World, to website and e-commerce with VisualAge for JAVA and Visual LANSA. Said McLatchie, "Finally with Rocket Aldon LM, we now have a tool to manage all our client server development."

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Kevin McLatchie
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