Rocket®software

E. Miroglio

Rocket® Enterprise Server elevates textile giant's performance

E. Miroglio is a rapidly expanding leader in the textile world. The company operates seven manufacturing and office sites located in Bulgaria, Serbia, Italy, France, and China.

At a Glance

Industry: Manufacturing.

Location: Italy.

Challenge: E. Miroglio's Italy-based IT team had limited control over its Bulgaria-based production systems, and their application environment was expensive to maintain with limited flexibility.

Challenge

To manage their complex manufacturing and inventory environment, E. Miroglio deployed a production management application in Bulgaria, the location of their main production sites. The mainframe-based application offered limited flexibility and was expensive to maintain and support. The first step to create a more flexible and cost-effective environment was to migrate their solution to AIX® using TXSeries® for online IBM® CICS® transaction processing. For batch processing, the switch to AIX converted all mainframe JCL scripts to UNIX® shell scripts.

E. Miroglio's distributed workforce of more than 500 solution users accessed the AIX backend environment through a suite of host communication and terminal emulation solutions, including Rocket® Reflection® Desktop, Rocket® Secure Host Access. While the company enjoyed the cost benefits of not maintaining a full mainframe environment, E. Miroglio still felt improvements could be made. So, they adopted Rocket® Enterprise Developer™ for Windows®. This meant that solution developers could work on active software development and testing from any Windows machine, at any location.

Rocket's host communication and terminal emulation solutions were then leveraged to deploy the new code onto the AIX infrastructure. This offered more control over the infrastructure management and the software development lifecycle. But while the existing environment met most requirements for a time, the team knew that after ten years its limitations were hindering business innovation. Maurizio Chiavazza, System and Network Administrator with E.Miroglio, explains:

"We process about 5,000 batch jobs every 24 hours and unfortunately this required some manual assistance, managed through a solution we had developed ourselves. As our company grows, so do the batch jobs and the time it takes to process them. We also felt it was time to standardize our environment with a more modern toolset. Having a more cost-effective and mainstream platform would allow us to be more flexible and respond to changing business requirements faster."

The Challenge

With a distributed workforce and aging environment, E. Miroglio needed a solution for active software development and testing from any location.

Solution

The team realized that Rocket Enterprise Server could accelerate the digital transformation to an alternate platform, reusing unique and business-critical core applications and data as part of a modernization journey. With over 12,000 COBOL-based programs to replatform and a 24/7 operation that could not tolerate downtime, careful planning of this move was of the utmost importance. The team knew that an x86-based Linux platform would provide the flexibility they were looking for, along with infrastructure cost savings and future modernization opportunities. As part of the standardization and simplification of the environment, all UNIX shell scripts were converted back to JCL with Rocket Enterprise Server. This was helpful as the

E. Miroglio team historically had more JCL expertise, making it more difficult to maintain the UNIX shell scripts after the move. The team now comfortably manages the JCL from Italy.

The Solution

E. Miroglio selected Rocket® Enterprise Server to move to a standardized and simplified x86-based platform, reusing over 12,000 COBOL programs.

Results

Moving to the new platform provided huge performance improvements, boosting end-user productivity. The switchover to the new platform was smooth and safe, with no disruption to the business. Online and batch transactions are now managed through the Rocket Enterprise Server. While the move was completely transparent to the more than 500 end-users, what they did notice was the incredible performance improvement, with some departments reporting a 90 percent improvement. When speaking with the billing department, Geuna discovered: "My colleagues told me it used to take up to 15 minutes to generate and send an invoice, because the system performance would slow the process. After the Rocket Enterprise Server replatforming, invoices are completed and sent in seconds, practically real-time: a massive productivity boost for the team."

Nightly batch operations are fully automated and complete 50 percent faster, a great benefit for a 24/7 company with thousands of daily transactions. Thanks to standardization, maintaining and supporting the new platform will also be far more cost-effective.

Chiavazza concludes: "We leveraged Rocket Enterprise Server to deploy an efficient and stable x86-based platform, giving us full control over our production environment, even though we are based in different countries. This enables us to serve our customers better. We simplified and standardized our programs and processes, and our end-users are delighted with the improved performance on both batch and transaction levels."

Impact

Enhanced performance
Rocket Enterprise Server improved online and batch transaction performance by as much as 90 percent, resulting in a major productivity boost.

Improved control
Moving to Rocket Enterprise Server allows the Italy-based IT team to comfortably manage the platform across all production sites.

Reduced costs
Alongside 50% batch performance improvements, Rocket Enterprise Server nets 50% infrastructure cost savings for E. Miroglio.