



Achieving an 80% Boost in Performance and Operational Savings

Driving digital transformation and operational excellence with Rocket® Enterprise Suite*



LABORAL Kutxa believes in a different way of banking, by building a transparent and trusting relationship with its 1.1 million clients. It's this unique and personal philosophy that drives their decisions and the way they conduct business.

CHALLENGE

Overcoming heritage limitations to enable digital growth

With declining system performance and difficulty attracting developers with suitable mainframe skills, LABORAL Kutxa knew it was time to start exploring their options. Director of Technology and Systems Joseba Maruri comments: “With our Fujitsu mainframe infrastructure we felt stuck in the 20th century while the world was changing all around us. Our regulators were asking for more detailed and more frequent reporting, and our clients were demanding a multi-channel approach where they could seamlessly connect to their banking affairs by mobile. Our platform was becoming obsolete and there wasn’t room to grow within it. However, it had given us stability for over 30 years, so although everyone talked about digital transformation and the flexibility this provides, we were worried about making a fundamental change to our business-critical systems.”

Management within the bank was concerned about single-vendor lock-in, rising mainframe support and maintenance

costs, and overall platform governance and security. Once executive support was secured, Maruri focused on finding the right partners for the modernization project. “We needed a trusted team, with experience and integrity... This decision was the key to our success. There were no separate teams, there was just one team working together, communicating openly, and totally focused on our desired outcome.”

CHALLENGE

LABORAL Kutxa needed to address aging infrastructure and provide enhanced digital banking services while improving system performance at a reduced operational cost.

SOLUTION

Modernization and enhanced collaboration with Rocket Enterprise Suite

Following a period of new architecture planning, the team leveraged Rocket® Enterprise Developer* and Rocket® Enterprise Server* to create a test environment. Because the decision had been made to make the final move from the mainframe in one 'big bang' fashion, it was essential that the new environment proved itself to be fully functional beforehand. Each night, millions of transactions were initiated into the mainframe and new open systems environment. To ensure consistency, automatic comparisons were run, and it was reassuring and a boost to the team's confidence to find that all transactions replicated perfectly.

Meanwhile, the LABORAL Kutxa developers familiarized themselves with Enterprise Developer. They were delighted to discover the power of DevOps, automated compilation tools, and the convenience of creating a test environment at the click of a button. Different development teams could collaborate effectively as the new environment supports any program language, i.e. COBOL, .NET, Java®, etc., which was also helpful for attracting new development talent for further innovation.



JOSEBA MARURI,
LABORAL Kutxa,
Director of Technology and Systems

In the Rocket-powered environment, one batch process was reduced from 2 hours to just 12 minutes. Others that used to take over 100 minutes are now completed in only a minute. The efficiency of our systems improved by over 80 percent overall, while select processes improved by more than 90 percent.”

SOLUTION

Rocket® Enterprise Developer and Rocket® Enterprise Server created a test environment to ensure flawless system functionality before moving from the mainframe.



RESULTS

Transformative efficiency and cost savings unlocked

The project progressed smoothly and within budget. The switchover of systems was planned a few weeks ahead of the original deadline, over a weekend to minimize business disruption. “The whole team came together for the changeover, and we were fully prepared to stay the entire weekend to deal with any difficulties,” says Maruri. “Imagine our surprise when everything went smoothly, and we were all home again by lunchtime on the first day. This is a real testament to the depth of experience within the team, and the level of preparation and risk mitigation to guarantee business continuity. The move was entirely transparent to our customers.”

Once the transition was completed, many new opportunities opened up for LABORAL Kutxa. “The first thing we noticed were performance improvements,” comments Maruri. “In the Rocket-powered environment, one batch process was reduced from 2 hours to just 12 minutes. Others that used to take over 100 minutes are now completed in only a minute. In addition, our digital banking customers saw their homepage loading in just 2–3 seconds, instead of 6–7 seconds previously. The efficiency of our systems improved by over 80 percent overall, while select processes improved by more than 90 percent.” While the initial motivation of this

project was to help LABORAL Kutxa become more flexible and responsive to client needs, the cost savings were a welcome benefit. Says Maruri: “When we consider straightforward license, maintenance, and support costs, moving away from the mainframe has saved us over 80 percent of our operational IT costs. Add to that the electricity consumption savings, supporting our green values, and the reduction in our physical footprint, and the savings will be even higher. We have not reduced our IT budget: instead, we are redirecting these savings to investments in cyber security and advanced analytics, which will directly benefit our business and our clients.”

- **Batch process**
2 hours → 12 min
100 min → 1 min
- **Homepage loading**
6-7 sec → 2-3 sec
- **80% efficiency boost**

LABORAL Kutxa's preparation for the future turned out to be fortuitous when a global pandemic struck the world in March of 2020. The new platform managed the sudden increase in online banking without any performance degradation or upgrades required. It also enabled development teams to smoothly transition to remote working while still fully collaborating with each other through modern development tools. The open infrastructure provides room to grow and the flexibility to move in any direction, including cloud deployment. Flexible hardware allocation has also immeasurably improved disaster recovery capability.

Maruri concludes: "This project was all about people and communication... The professional partnership delivered within budget and ahead of our planned timescale, saving costs, and enabling great innovation. We are more agile and can respond faster to ever-changing market conditions."



80% improvements

Rocket Software helped improve overall system efficiency as well as operational IT budget each by 80 percent.



Extreme efficiency

In the Rocket-powered environment, one batch process went from 2 hours down to just 12 minutes, while others at 100 minutes now complete in only 60 seconds.



Increased collaboration

Dev teams can collaborate effectively as the new environment supports any program language, helping to attract new talent and innovation opportunities.

*Formerly a Micro Focus® product

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

Rocket® Enterprise Suite*

Industry

Banking.

Location

Spain.

Challenge

Increase infrastructure and development flexibility while providing enhanced digital banking services, improving system performance and reducing operational cost.



Modernization. **Without Disruption.**™

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