

SCI: successful migration from HP e3000 to HP 9000



The migration from HP e3000 to HP 9000 has enabled us to consolidate our server landscape from nine sites to merely two sites. Our TCO has dropped by two thirds.

– Eric Pannaud, System Information Manager, SCI, France

Premier IT service levels for quality produce trading

SCI (Service Commun Informatique) provides, operates and manages a data center for nine agricultural and viticultural cooperatives plus two agricultural trading companies in south-western France. At SCI, three IT professionals cater to the needs of 100 users of trading applications tailored to the specific requirements of buyers and sellers of prime quality produce.

Centralization plus investment protection

In 2001, SCI deployed a total of ten HP e3000 systems distributed across nine sites. Nine of these were production systems, while one was used for development. Over the years, these systems had proved their worth. However, they had become increasingly difficult to manage – and SCI was looking for a boost in computing power to meet the needs of its business organizations.

“When we decided to migrate to new technology, our key objectives were centralization, cost reduction, and the re-use of our tailor-made business applications. We wanted to retain the same look and feel for all transaction screens, and we wanted to avoid any major change management effort. With the help of

CHEOPS TECHNOLOGY, we have achieved these objectives quickly, efficiently and with minimum impact on our customers’ processes,” notes Eric Pannaud, System Information Manager, SCI.

Overcoming obstacles

In spring of 2002, SCI chose CHEOPS TECHNOLOGY as its partner for the planned migration from HP e3000 using MPE/iX to HP 9000 running HP-UX. The teams from SCI and Cheops jointly identified a number of road blockers that needed to be overcome. These included:

- Data integrity issues
- User interface portation
- Job & session control
- Printing issues
- Script validation
- Language migration

The pilot system, which went live in October 2003, confirmed these migration issues. The pilot installation was used for performance test definitions and yielded a robust framework for the migration guide created by CHEOPS TECHNOLOGY. The first batch of migrated transaction screens took SCI users by surprise.

“When we displayed three freshly translated templates, our colleagues refused to believe that these were running on the new platform. The new user interface provided exactly the same look and feel,” recalls Eric Pannaud.

Spot on schedule

In a sequence of defined phases, these and other obstacles were overcome. TRANSFORMER, a tool designed by CHEOPS TECHNOLOGY, automates the migration of the POWERHOUSE programs, the transcription of JCLs to native UNIX shell scripts, and the migration of databases. TRANSFORMER identifies and automatically performs any required changes in the HP 3000 source code to ensure that the code runs smoothly in UNIX environments.

“TRANSFORMER has enabled us to complete the migration project quickly and efficiently, ensuring quality and the future support of the migrated applications,” says Eric Pannaud.

“Offering the perfect skill base for our needs, the CHEOPS TECHNOLOGY team took a hands-on

approach. The ongoing skill transfer has helped to empower the SCI team”, says Eric Pannaud.

Hardcopy issues were resolved by means of a Cognos PowerHouse script. With the support of Marxmeier Software AG, based in Wuppertal, Germany, the data migration to the Eloquence database on the HP 9000 went fairly smoothly. Data calls were converted by CHEOPS TECHNOLOGY; this was facilitated by the fact that Cognos PowerHouse 4GL uses the same programming interfaces on the HP e3000 and HP 9000.

Major performance boost

Following successful completion of the pilot phase, full-scale migration was completed in March 2004. When all three HP 9000 target systems went productive in April 2004, SCI was impressed with the performance boost achieved through the new HP 9000 servers.

“One of our heaviest processes used to take 10 minutes to complete. Using the same data, the same process now completes in 28 seconds with a real-life Eloquence database,” confirms Eric Pannaud.

Prior to migration	Following migration	Benefits achieved
10 x HP e3000 using MPE/iX	3 x HP 9000 using HP-UX: one rp 5430/2 and one rp 2405/2-ways for production, one rp 5430/1-way for development	More performance, reduced costs
8 sites	2 sites	Vastly reduced TCO
Turbolmage database	Eloquence database	Ease of data management
Cognos Powerhouse	Cognos Powerhouse	Investment protection and reduced licensing fees
Tailored applications	Tailored applications	Same look and feel

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