



Highlights

- Veryant delivers lower-cost solution for city income tax application
- City can maintain vital legacy application on new server with expanded capacity
- Flexible licensing creates best option for municipality
- COBOL deployment simplified by eliminating need for Oracle precompiler

isCOBOL Delivers Cost-Effective Alternative for Critical City Tax Application

When a major Midwestern state capital needed to upgrade its server infrastructure to accommodate growing workloads, Veryant delivered the most cost-effective, flexible solution.

Income tax records augmented with outside information at state capital

This capital city has gradually developed since the early nineteen hundreds into the most populous municipality of its state. With nearly 2 million people in the region, it is a growing, thriving area that serves as home to over 10 Fortune 1000 headquarters and 20 colleges and universities.

City residents pay a two percent annual municipal income tax, with employers responsible for withholding the correct tax and paying it to the city. Because the IRS shares tax information with states and large cities, the city uses the data to target non-filers, rather than requiring all residents to file a city tax return.

When the IRS sends information about taxes, the city uses a COBOL-based program to sort, organize, and keep track of the public records. Information from the U.S. government is also integrated into the city's COBOL programs, where data is formatted, files preprocessed, then loaded into an Oracle® 10g database. This information can also be used to do address lookups to identify residents.

City growth requires new IT capacity

For security reasons, the city maintains its COBOL-based tax application by itself on a dedicated server; there is no direct user interface to this information. Instead, after data is processed and standardized, it is then distributed to other departments who access the information by software applications like Crystal Reports and custom applications written in Delphi.

When the previous server reached capacity, the IT staff decided to move to an HP Intel® Itanium® server running the HP-UX operating system, both to expand capacity and improve security and taxpayer confidentiality. The city had been using Micro Focus® COBOL as the compiler and runtime environment for its legacy program.

However, when the city was ready to upgrade to the new server, Micro Focus would only sell a minimum number of COBOL licenses that was 10 times the amount actually needed. The city was told that anyone who sees the data needs a license, even if they did not run the COBOL programs themselves. This would have been a costly solution for the city to deploy.

Veryant delivers cost-effective alternative

With that information in hand, the city's IT staff began looking for alternatives. They found isCOBOL™ Evolve from Veryant, which offers comprehensive, cost-effective development, deployment, maintenance, and modernization of COBOL applications.

Because of the capabilities of isCOBOL and because it was a more cost-effective solution, the city chose Veryant over Micro Focus. Veryant offered flexible user licenses and sold the city exactly what it needed, not more. In addition to offering lower costs, Veryant also offered improved functionality. With isCOBOL, the city was able to eliminate the need for an Oracle precompiler, which also lowered software license fees and simplified the overall solution.

Before moving to isCOBOL, the city tested the new technology for a month to be sure that all processes would work as expected. The results of the test were positive, so the city moved on to deployment. Because of Veryant, the city is now able to maintain its existing income tax application in a cost-effective, streamlined environment.



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