

Generali Streamlines its IT systems with Mia-Software and Prima Solutions

Mia-Studio software suite combined with Prima IBCS model allows Generali to implement an IT transformation plan to reduce its number of applications.

Paris, September 15, 2008 – Second largest insurance group in France, Generali has 8000 employees and 1100 agents. The company continued its strong growth in 2007, realizing revenue earnings of more than 15 billion euros, in spite of a falling market.

In 2004-2005, Generali launched its first transformation project by integrating the IT infrastructures, inherited from the acquisitions of Continent and Zurich. Their application portfolio, as of 2008, consisted of internally developed legacy applications, merged applications and numerous minor applications. The technologies used within the portfolio were heterogeneous and complex.

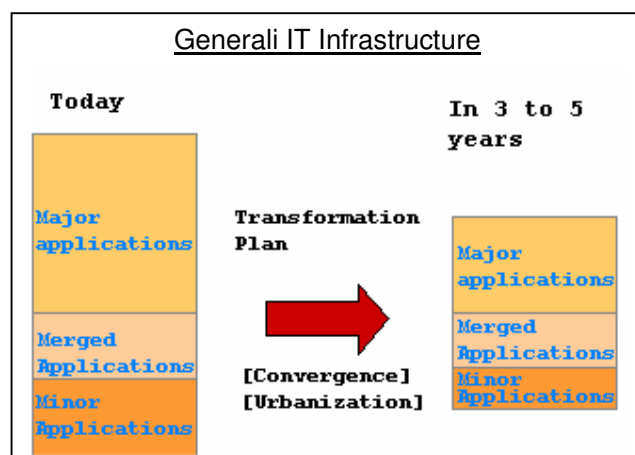
Because of this complexity and the disparate systems from the acquisitions, it was decided to design an IT infrastructure that contributed to growth, productivity and a better quality of service, while pursuing the implementation of new technologies.

The choice of urbanization

The transformation plan had several ambitious goals: an urbanized approach should allow the IT department to be more responsive. The convergence of applications would increase investment and improve the quality of development efforts, and the convergence of processes would increase productivity.

The evolution to a service-oriented architecture (SOA) necessitated several changes including; the deployment of new technologies coupled with a shared common practice approach, the establishment of a common data information model, standardization of communication exchange between systems, definition of the target architecture, adaptation of a project management process and managing phased changes.

“We wanted to develop a modular information system that strengthens our responsiveness and time to market of our products. To achieve this, we have formed 4 teams in 2007, each manage a specific programme. The architecture and integration program is managed by the team Architecture et Innovations, urbanization and convergence is headed by the Development team and the programme of streamlining and centralization is done by the Production team.” explains Nathalie Mantilla, Data Architect, Generali.



The Architecture and Innovations team defines the target technology (Cobol / Java), development standards and associated tools. The transformation plan needed to normalize and standardize the data. The CTO has established a team to manage the data. It is this team whose task it is to choose the process and the toolset to be used.

The choice of a reference model.

After studying several strategy options for data standardization, in 2007, Generali chose to standardize using a business reference model.

The strategy could be adapted to their existing systems, yet be enriched in accordance with the needs of the transformation projects as they occur. To adapt the existing systems, the data standardization (DSI) team decided to use reverse engineering techniques and tools.

Generali selected their tool suite to consist of; Prima Solutions' IBCS™ data reference model, NoMagic's MagicDraw™ and Team Server™ software for model sharing and editing applications and Mia-Software's Mia-Studio™ development for the code generation and reverse engineering.

Early gains on pilots

Generali launched its initial pilot application in late 2007 and realized their first benefits within a few months. Using the common data reference model allowed for standardizing of applications interfaces and reduced the project time required for the analysis, design, development and implementation phases. The model guaranteed consistent data semantic across the enterprise. Using a Pivotal Model Approach (PMA) during the design phase reduced the risk and development effort.

The model approach provided for the automatic generation of the application code from data model. This improved the quality of the implementation phase by the functional issues from the implementation issues. Use of the model approach also improved:

- Productivity of the developers with a high rate of code generation.
- Quality of the generated application code by ensuring consistency, uniformity and the automated enforcement of development best practices.
- Greater agility for code modifications and enhancements.
- Easier implementation through the use of stereotypes and integration into the development tools.

About Prima Solutions

Prima Solutions provides standard-based software to support incremental transformation of existing Insurance IT systems into component-based Service Oriented Applications. Built around an extensive Insurance Reference Model (Prima IBCS), a template-based code generation toolset and an innovative business service repository, Prima Repository complements existing infrastructure to enable a pragmatic and efficient approach to SOA transformation. Dedicated to the insurance industry, Prima Solutions offers new technology to promote Reusability and renewed Business and Technical Agility.

Founded in 1999 Prima Solutions operates globally from offices in Paris and Chicago. Customers include Safeco, Burns and Wilcox, Wipro, Patni, Generali, Kiln, La Réunion Aérienne, Eurolife, RLI Insurance Corp, Farm Bureau, B2V, CNP Assurances, Swiss Life, Groupama and AGPM. Projects implemented by these customers involve General, Health, Life and Pension Insurance products for core distribution, underwriting, policy administration and claims processing. Prima Solutions is supported by global alliances with key technology partners

including BEA Systems, Ilog and Sun Microsystems as well as selected delivery partners in its strategic operating markets.

Prima Solutions is a member of ACORD and OMG.

About Mia-Software

Mia-Software is a software editor specialised in the Model-Driven approach, aiming at industrializing the development and maintenance of the Information Systems of large companies

- Mia-Studio automates the development and refactoring of applications (. NET, J2EE...) while following the standards of the OMG (MDA: Model Driven Architecture, UML)
- Mia-Insight is a suite of software mapping and analysis of legacy applications, regardless of their volumes and their heterogeneity (mainframe, client / server, NTIC)

Based in Paris, Brussels, Nantes and Toulouse, Mia-Software has many cross sector references and several business and/or technology partnerships (Microsoft, IBM, SUN, etc.).

Mia-Software is a subsidiary of Sodifrance, SSII specializes in automated processing of SI, listed on Euronext Paris.

Information

Mia-Software : Vincent Hanniet : +33 1 49 93 13 45
E-mail : vhanniet@mia-software.com
www.mia-software.com

Prima Solutions USA: 312 674 4598
E-mail : contact@prima-solutions.com
www.prima-solutions.com

3d Communication : Daniel Margato : +33 1 46 05 87 87
E-mail : dmargato@3dcommunication.fr
www.3dcommunication.fr
