

Case Study GRTgaz

»We asked Fujitsu to interleave our applications and it has been a real success in terms of deadlines and performance.«

Hervé Constant, DIS, GRTgaz



The customer

Country: France

Industry: Energy and Utilities

Founded: 2005 Employees: 3,200 Website: www.grtgaz.com



The challenge

- To implement a global solution to interleave the information system while complying with important time, budget and performance constraints
- Negotiating with the publisher of license agreements

The solution

Migrating the Solaris and AIX (Unix BM) environment to a unified Oracle architecture including:

- An application layer based on the latest version of Oracle Solaris
- A hardware layer: Oracle SuperCluster , engineered system
- A set of associated services for each layer

The customer

GRTgaz constructs, operates and develops a high pressure natural gas network, which covers the majority of the French territory. It transports natural gas to shippers, industrial clients and local distribution networks. GRTgaz also provides connection services for transport networks to allow industrial clients to directly access the natural gas wholesale markets and freely choose a supplier. It is the leading high pressure natural gas transport network in Europe.

The challenge

GRTgaz needed its own Information Management environment, one that was separate from the information system of GDF SUEZ, its parent company. This would allow GRTgaz to meet the European directive around improving the efficiency of the French energy market.

Separating the activities of GDF SUEZ and GRTgaz means separating all the IT activities shared by the two companies in terms of servers, tools, applications and support.

GRTgaz needed a partner who could act as a technical integrator but who could also coordinate all the projects and services associated with the applications.

The solution

GRTgaz's information system was a hybrid environment comprising 500 servers, 300 applications (core business and support) and around 60 databases. Several thousand data flows had to be migrated to this new unified environment.

Eight waves of interleaving were planned in relation to structural and business needs. For each wave, a specific methodology was designed (cloning, moving, reconstructing, adapting, etc.) with precise criteria for each step.

The benefit

The two-year project was based on a consultative approach. Upstream we worked closely with the client in order to understand all the challenges related to the 3D program and to be able to better respond to its requirements in an acceptable time frame.

The benefit

- A unified environment for the entire information system: Solaris
- Better overview of the IT system
- Contractual performance commitments
- A single point of contact throughout the project to simplify exchanges between the various stakeholders

Once these requirements had been identified, Fujitsu experts drew up a specific action plan and set up all the tools required to manage a large-scale project such as this.

Implementing an innovative and flexible governance process compatible with the specific requirements of each wave largely contributed to the success of the project. Each wave of interleaving was carried out in accordance with the same standard sequence:

- Launch phase: studying the architecture of the target solution, analyzing the risks and defining a schedule
- Execution phase: technical installation and adaptation, installation and business acceptance, and a trial and actual switch-over
- Post switch-over phase: updating the documentation, VSR, corrections and adjustments, and source decommissioning.

This approach to governance was indispensable for coordinating the service projects associated with the applications: it turned out to be extremely effective as Fujitsu was able to respect all performance commitments and deadlines.

Deploying the solution on a new architecture increases the operational efficiency of GRTgaz's information system. Thanks to support from Fujitsu, GRTgaz has been able to significantly reduce spending on hardware by running its applications on a single OS (Solaris).

The significant consultancy period coordinated by the Fujitsu teams also helped reduce investment in software by introducing an 'on demand' licensing model.

Products and services

- Pre-sales study
- Setting up a specific methodology and interleaving schedule for each target solution
- Oracle SuperCluster
- Complete deployment of the solution
- Hardware and software maintenance

Conclusion

Fujitsu designed a global bespoke offer for GRTgaz based on combined expertise for the Services and Products. Thanks to this optimized offer, Fujitsu was able to respond to GRTgaz's needs. This project perfectly illustrates Fujitsu's support model, which is at the heart of the group's global strategy. It allowed to provide GRTgaz with specialized expertise and demonstrate Fujitsu's role as a global integrator. The project implementation approach (consulting and needs assessment) can easily be adapted to other contexts.

Fujitsu has demonstrated its ability to understand the client's problems by providing it with a personalized solution and by offering full support throughout the process. The success of this project is due to the considerable preparation work and the relationship of trust we built with our partner.

"If we were successful, it's because we took the time to carefully lay the foundations of our partnership and get to know each other. This approach worked very well and our initial discussions were key to its success," concludes Hervé Constant.

"This project allowed us to recognize individual skills and raise our level of mutual requirements."

Harry Zarrouk, Country Leader, Oracle Système France

Contact

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