

Cashco Successfully Migrates Main Manufacturing System from OpenVMS to a Sustainable Environment

Cashco was running its entire operation on a highly customized, long-standing OpenVMS system. They wanted to reduce their dependency on this aging platform, mitigate the risk of skills shortages and use the latest database tools - while at the same time retain their valuable business logic.



The Customer

Cashco, Inc., headquartered in Ellsworth, KS, is a leading manufacturer of a broad line of control valves, pressure reducing regulators and back pressure regulators used for a variety of industrial applications at oil, gas, and coal plants around the globe.

The Challenge

Cashco was running its entire operation on a highly customized OpenVMS system that had been developed over the past 25 years. Cashco's various applications were written in OpenVMS Fortran and made use of an Oracle database. The Cashco leadership team realized that they needed to ensure their system would be sustainable in the future, and identified three main business drivers that needed to be addressed:

- > Dependency on an aging OpenVMS platform
- > Inability to use the latest Oracle database tools and capabilities
- > Scarcity of the skill set required to maintain their applications

The Solution

Advanced conducted a Pathfinder assessment in order to evaluate the issues, solution, costs, and timescales to migrate the Cashco OpenVMS system to a Linux open systems platform.

Advanced determined that Cashco's biggest limitation was their use of the Fortran programming language. Fortran programmers are increasingly hard to find and Oracle is no longer providing the Fortran pre-compiler that enables a connection between Fortran coded applications and Oracle databases.

Based on this challenge Advanced proposed translating Cashco's Fortran code to C, which would allow them to upgrade to the latest Oracle database version. Originally Cashco had hoped to retain their Fortran code because it appeared the simplest path, but Cashco agreed that Advanced's recommendation was the better solution and decided to move forward with Advanced as their migration partner.

Client >

Cashco

Sector >

Manufacturing

Project >

OpenVMS Migration

"Our aging HP Alpha Servers needed to be replaced, and we needed to future-proof our system from an application, hardware and staffing perspective."

Shaun Thornton >
IT Manager >
Cashco

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Major Benefits

With Advanced's help, Cashco successfully migrated their OpenVMS system to an environment consisting of Oracle Enterprise Linux, Oracle Solaris Studio, and the latest Oracle 11g database. Working with Cashco, Advanced used our migration knowledge and tools to lower the risk and cost of migration. Cashco also deployed the Advanced Compatibility Framework to allow them to resolve existing OpenVMS systems dependencies and to allow them to reuse their existing DCL on the new Linux-based system.

The new system performs 4-5 times faster on the new hardware, the new database supports an enhanced user interface and mobility options, and the switch to a modern programming language has mitigated the risk of skill shortages. Cashco was able to retain their existing business logic thus extending the business value of their investment in custom applications, without disruption to daily business and without retraining of end users.

Most importantly, Cashco's main manufacturing OpenVMS applications have found new life on Linux and will be able to provide value to Cashco for many years to come.

About Advanced

Advanced is a leading provider of OpenVMS migration and modernization solutions with more than 30 years' experience, and expert staff dedicated to servicing the needs of organizations with legacy systems. Hundreds of organizations worldwide such as Citi, Gap, Chevron, and Westinghouse have enjoyed the business benefits of an Advanced application modernization solution. We work with a large network of OEM business partners, VARs, System Integrators and technical partners across the U.S., Europe, the Middle East and Asia to offer unparalleled solutions.

"Advanced's ability to modernize a system by performing a language translation as the application is being migrated to an open systems platform speaks volumes about their expertise as an OpenVMS resource."

Shaun Thornton >
IT Manager >
Cashco

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