MIBRAG migrates its mining systems from OpenVMS to a more flexible Windows Server environment

Mitteldeutsche Braunkohlengesellschaft mbH (MIBRAG) was running several critical systems on aging HP OpenVMS Alpha servers. They wanted to reduce their dependency on this aging platform while retaining valuable mission-critical business logic.

The Customer

Mitteldeutsche Braunkohlengesellschaft mbH (MIBRAG) is a modern, high-tech mining company headquartered in Zeitz. MIBRAG is one of the largest brown coal producers in Germany, mining up to 20 million tons of lignite (brown coal) each year – providing reliable power and heat.

The Challenge

MIBRAG was running critical lignite mining, modeling and data processing systems on aging HP OpenVMS Alpha server hardware. The applications were written in Fortran using the Rdb database and DCL scripting language, and supported the production processes and the accounting functions of the open cast mining operations.

For example, the quality of lignite (heating value, sulphur content, etc.) is traceable throughout the whole process from planning, mining and different means of transport to the customers. This is important because there are different modeling systems for each transport type, including 'shuffling' lignite between stockpiles, which must meet strict values. Data is delivered by OPC-Servers, from each device and laboratory to the various applications and displayed on the screens from which the operations are controlled.

The Solution

MIBRAG chose Advanced to migrate the critical mathematical modeling and data processing applications.

The process started with a PathFinder Assessment phase in order to analye the applications' assets and assess the scope and complexities of the project. The PathFinder Assessment also ensured a firm price for the project up front.

The applications were then migrated to an open and more flexible Microsoft Windows Server environment with Oracle 11g replacing the Rdb database.

Open Libr8 and Open DCL products were deployed to support the OpenVMS system by using our toolset for OpenVMS to automate the majority of the migration process, we were able to shorten delivery times, minimize costs and ensure the quality of the migration.

Client >
MIBRAG

Sector >
Mining

Project >
OpenVMS Migration

"We needed to de-risk the dependency of our critical applications on the aging HP OpenVMS Alpha platform and with there being no possible package replacement, migration offered the quickest, cheapest and minimum-risk option."

Rainer Waldbauer >
CIO >
MIBRAG

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Major Benefits

With the move to the Windows environment, MIBRAG has been able to consolidate its skill-set by maintaining all its applications within the more productive Microsoft Visual Studio development environment, and this will enable better future integration into the .NET architecture.

Taken together, MIBRAG will be able to reduce its operating costs while obtaining greater reliability and flexibility for the future.

About Advanced

Advanced is a leading provider of OpenVMS migration and modernization solutions with more than 25 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.

"We chose Advanced for this complex and demanding migration as it had both the technical expertise to convert our OpenVMS applications to Windows and also its well-established migration methodology. They delivered on time and on budget."

Rainer Waldbauer >
CIO >
MIBRAG

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