



Press Release

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Automated migration from VB to Java J2EE: Amadeus revamps its hotel reservation system thanks to SOFTMAINT's FAST solution

Amadeus Hospitality, the hotel division of Amadeus, used the services of SOFTMAINT and its FAST solution to carry out an automated transfer of its applications from a VB6 architecture to Java J2EE.

Amadeus is a leading transaction processor for the global travel and tourism industry, Amadeus solutions and services are used by more than 100 000 travel agencies and 34 000 airline sales offices. Many other major players in the Travel industry also use Amadeus modular technology to optimize the distribution and management of their internal needs.

■ **A critical service for Amadeus customers**

The Amadeus Hospitality Division is responsible for applications dedicated to reservation and distribution of hotel rooms and develops software, solutions optimization revenues, booking tools and electronic distribution, etc, on behalf of its clients.

At the end of 2007, Amadeus decided to upgrade its application in order to offer more efficient and open solutions to its customers.

"Our solutions enable hoteliers to respond to customer needs with the best product in terms of hotel category, price, room type, etc... With the proliferation of distribution channels, we decided to open our heritage application to a wider customer base by changing the platform. We had a VB6 based client-server architecture that we wanted to 'Webify'. The objective was to provide our hotel industry clients with the latest generation of multi-channel technology to produce more effective hotel reservations and allow them to increase their income" says Bernard Rannou, Manager of Revenue Management Systems at Amadeus Hospitality Business Group.

■ **Change of direction: J2EE instead of .Net !**

Amadeus Hospitality contacted SOFTMAINT in late 2007 for advice and assistance conducting this important project.

Amadeus chose SOFTMAINT because the company offers an architecture transformation solution called FAST (Future Architecture System Transformation), which automates the entire process, from retro-modeling an existing application to generating the massive final program code in the chosen technology.

FAST is based on a methodology and tool-rich Software platforms that allow faster and highly secure conversions to Java or .net.

On the basis of the specification provided by Amadeus, SOFTMAINT proposed a prototype based on its proprietary Model Driven Architecture (MDA) tools and



methodologies. The goal was to switch the Amadeus VB6 system architecture to Microsoft .net. However, during the project, Amadeus decided to change the target to turn to Java in order to improve the connectivity with its ecosystem.

"We finally opted for Java Technology, because it was more pervasive amongst our partners. Initially we were seduced by Microsoft's technology since it has many benefits such as strong naming conventions, but after surveying the platforms of our partners and of the Amadeus data center in Erding Germany, we changed our minds and chose J2EE" says Bernard Rannou. "We had already been convinced by SOFTMAINT's approach and tool set, but they really showed their expertise and the efficiency of their model driven toolbox when they made it possible for us to switch targets on the way and jump from .net to J2EE without any problem."

■ A new ergonomic and smooth automated migration

Once the study phase was completed, SOFTMAINT launched the automated application migration in November 2007 with delivery deadline in January 2009.

The first phase of the migration started with a reusable prototype developed from a subset of the application. Within 3 months, a dozen screens were switched to the new chosen technology. The usability and application navigation were then adjusted.

"Working on the ergonomics required good cooperation with SOFTMAINT developers. We were able to change the look and feel of the application and subsequently launched a modernization of data analysis modules, demand forecasting as well as price optimization and tuning" explains Bernard Rannou.

The last part of project was to merge specific code, such as the algorithmic treatment of forecast calculations, with the original source code.

"Deadlines were perfectly met by SOFTMAINT. Thanks to the FAST solution and its automated process, migration was progressive and the iso-functional part was executed extremely quickly (in 6 months) regardless of the fact there were 290 screens and 500,000 lines of code! The most complex part was adding functionality to applications coming from other sources. But thanks to functional input from the teams, all went well and the project was finished on time" says Bernard Rannou.

■ A new profitable application !

"The methodology and automation migration tools provided by SOFTMAINT helped us reduce project time and costs compared to traditional methods. Collaboration with SOFTMAINT taught us to separate iso-functional migration and the implementation of additional modules. Achieving both simultaneously would have been dangerous and would have lengthened the time needed to deliver the project. Our working techniques have also been impacted. In fact, before, we had to visit each hotel to connect it to our system. Now everything is customizable online and remotely" Bernard Rannou concludes.



About SOFTMAINT

SOFTMAINT is Europe's leading provider of automated legacy modernization solutions. For over 15 years, SOFTMAINT Legacy modernization expertise and solutions have been dedicated to helping numerous large companies efficiently modernize their IT systems. Our expertise and automated solutions include:

- Architecture evolution to .Net, Java, Flex: our FAST - Future Architecture System Transformation - solutions
- Platform migration, database and language conversion
- Reverse documentation and technical urbanization

With over 150 projects successfully delivered and longstanding experience, SOFTMAINT provides the most comprehensive modernization approach combining solutions, methodology, industrial delivery and quality engagements through CMMI2.

SOFTMAINT is a wholly-owned subsidiary of SODIFRANCE Group, an IT services company with 15 offices in France, Belgium and Tunisia, listed on the EURONEXT Stock Market (Mnemo code : SOA).

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