

Financial Services

Credit card provider cuts costs and development time with OpenLegacy



“Our zSeries migration project has been in the works for years now, leaving us stranded with an old technology that wasn’t compliant with new regulations and the latest security features. With OpenLegacy, development time and cost were so much lower that we finally felt confident launching the migration project.”

Providing a wide range of services, ranging from card issuance, clearing services, payment, and credit services, this growing enterprise has issued millions of branded credit cards and provides clearing services for over 50,000 business. They have always prided themselves on being market leaders in quality of customer service, made possible by their robust IT systems, collaboration with internal business units, and continued investment in technology.

The Challenge

The company’s entire credit card back office operation runs on a complex, large-scale zSeries application with hundreds of “green screens.” It is a packaged application for credit cards that was bought in the ‘90s and modernized by the company in the early 2000s with a Visual Basic front end, which was supplied by a vendor that is no longer in business.

A non-supported product in a dated environment posed many challenges and risks and several years ago, it was decided to move away from the Visual Basic front-end and embrace a web / mobile environment.

In the years since, they have tried -- and failed -- multiple times to get the project off the ground. Vendors quoted price tags that were too high, the timeline far too long -- calling for years of development. No vendor could commit to replacing the system quickly and cost-effectively.

The Solution

Enter [OpenLegacy zSuite](#). An initial two-day Proof of Concept (POC) was all it took to fully convert a complete business process from the zSeries application to a responsive web page, using Angular JS and REST API. OpenLegacy’s 3270 connector automatically parsed

About OpenLegacy

OpenLegacy enables enterprises to quickly and securely extend and transform legacy and on premise systems such as IBM i (aka AS/400), mainframes and databases to the Web, mobile and cloud. An open-standards development platform, OpenLegacy lets organizations solve high impact business problems quickly, giving enterprises a newfound agility and opening the door to creative, new, cost-effective solutions.

The Business End of Integration

the green screen business flows to gather the necessary data and metadata with very little effort on the developer's part. The OpenLegacy platform then modeled the fields, titles, data types, tables, and even the relationships between the different screens. Add OpenLegacy's intuitive user interface, and the POC was completed in record time.

The next phase was an extended pilot, where an entire sub-application of the zSeries application was converted into a web application. The team leveraged one of OpenLegacy's migration tools for a highly automated conversion process: The tool parsed and analyzed the Visual Basic application's metadata and Visual Basic structure (e.g panels, widgets), and automatically generated web pages and corresponding APIs.

Because of the highly automated nature of the migration tool (about 70% was automated out of the box), combined with the ability to incorporate modeling rules and templates, this pilot phase took only a week to complete.

The additional proof points provided in this project were:

- Auto generated Web Services running within the zSeries (mainframe) environment.
- OpenLegacy generated API's invoking existing customer developed Web Services as Rest API's - quickly extending them to responsive web pages.
- Provided critical asynchronous updates to and from the mainframe zSeries environment - through a high volume batch process that reads and writes to the mainframe database.
- Built in API orchestration, which now seamlessly blends zSeries screens, Web Services and database access - all through a new web application with a consistent and cohesive user interface.
- Security, Regulatory compliance, API management, and performance

The team estimated that the full application could be migrated in a substantially faster timeline - substantially faster than any of the previous estimates, with the added financial benefit of being accomplished by the current IT resource team.

The Result

The project for migrating the entire zSeries application from the Visual Basic environment to a newly designed, fully responsive web application is now underway.

Massive cost savings and faster time to market through a non-invasive, cloud-deployed solution

Instead of rewriting the zSeries and Visual Basic code, and changing the business logic -- a risky, costly move which would have taken years -- they will now create a responsive web application within months. Moving from a Visual Basic desktop environment to a modern web-based, server architecture makes it easier to integrate with their CRM and other internal applications. Responsive web design means that the same application can be accessed by mobile phones and tablets without any additional customization.

Conforming to international regulatory requirements

A primary impetus for the project was the need to conform to international regulations and standards, including supporting modern security requirements.