OpenLegacy

Department Store Retailer

A leading department store buys into mobile
AS/400 connectivity - without the hefty price tag

> "Providing mobile
> connectivity to all of
> our managers with
> development time
> in days instead of
> years, at a fraction
> of the cost of an ERP
> upgrade project,
> made working with
> OpenLegacy a no-
> brainer."
>
> CIO, Retailer

Founded in 1944, this department store chain is the largest in its country of operation, with 40 stores selling fashion, cosmetics, jewelry, sporting goods, and home decor. The company also operates the country's biggest customer loyalty program.

As a savvy retailer, being data-driven and providing management with easy access to data and analytics have always been top priorities.

The Challenge

The retailer's core business applications reside on an IBM AS/400 - including applications for store management, sales floor tracking, reporting, and finance. While the applications consistently offer high stability and high quality of data, the main pain point was their user interface - namely, the "green screens." The antiquated UI led to a steep learning curve for new users, and low productivity. Beyond these usability issues, the data was not easily accessible by other applications, and was not available on any mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets.

The company looked into switching its ERP system and migrating off of the AS/400, only to discover that the cost for an ERP migration project was in the millions of dollars, and entailed 3- 5 years of development time - making it prohibitively time-consuming and expensive. The ROI was not there, but still, something had to change. The company was looking for a way to "do more with less," and unlock the business-critical data "trapped" in its legacy applications.

About OpenLegacy

OpenLegacy enables enterprises to quickly and rapidly extend and transform legacy systems such as AS/400 and mainframes to the web, mobile and cloud. A standards-based open source development platform, OpenLegacy lets developers solve high impact business problems quickly, giving enterprises a new-found agility and opening the door to creative new solutions at a low cost and with a high rate of success.

Position your company for the future with OpenLegacy.

The Solution

The retailer leveraged the OpenLegacy platform to modernize its AS/400 environment. In 2.5 days, the retailer's developers were able to create a mobile application on top of the retailer's AS/400 store sales application, built on top of OpenLegacy's OpenMobile module.

The new mobile application exposes real-time sales floor data to managers, who are able to follow sales status in real-time by store and by department. The application is available for both smartphones and tablets, on any platform - Apple iOS, Android, Windows, and Blackberry. In addition to displaying the sales data from the AS/400 screens as data tables, the application leverages standard web and mobile widgets to display the data in easy-to-read charts. The charts combine data from multiple AS/400 screens to display year-over-year sales comparisons - a view that did not exist in the original AS/400 application as a standalone screen.

The Result

Enhanced productivity on the go

For the first time, managers are able to access real-time sales data on demand, from any location and any device. The new application serves management in day to day execution, putting key performance indicators at their fingertips at any time. Combined with an intuitive user interface and custom charts, the new application has led to significant improvements in productivity.

Fast, cost-effective, and risk-free modernization

Using OpenLegacy to modernize and mobilize core AS/400 applications did not require any changes to the underlying legacy environment - minimizing modernization risk and development time. Simultaneously, the retailer continues to enjoy all the benefits of the its well-proven, time- tested AS/400 platform: reliability, security, and data accuracy.

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