



INSURANCE COMPANY IN EUROPE

Highlights

Customer

A leading insurance company in Europe.

Source Platform

IBM 390 / OS 390 / PL/I / JCL / VSAM Files / DB2

Application

General Ledger

Size

PL/I Programs: 165
LOC: 262,438 approx
Copy Books/Include Files: 1501
LOC: 47,435 approx
JCL Programs: 74

Target Platform

IBM 390 / OS 390 / COBOL / modified JCL / VSAM Files / DB2

Team size

1 project lead with
2 team members and
1 Quality reviewer

Introduction

The customer is one of the leading insurance companies in Europe.

The General Ledger application, in PL/I, resided on an IBM 390 / OS 390 system using VSAM files and DB2 RDBMS. The requirement was to convert the PL/I programs to COBOL, keeping other components unchanged. However, due to changes in the language, some modifications in JCL were imperative.

The prime objective of the customer was 'Language Consolidation', the reasons being

- ➔ Low skill availability in PL/I
- ➔ High cost of maintenance

Challenges

The application was mission-critical as it was a live system, which maintained the financial records of the company.

Technically, the challenge lay in converting the PL/I programs to COBOL, without changing the embedded business logic. Another issue was to restrict changes in the JCL programs to a minimum.

Solution Approach

A tool based automated solution was used to convert PL/I programs to COBOL and make necessary modifications to the JCL programs. The datastore remained unaltered.

A very high degree of automation was adopted to

- ➔ ensure minimum impact on business logic.
- ➔ implement uniformity of coding style across the converted application, to ensure easy maintainability.

The prime vendor carried out functional testing of the converted source.

The solution achieved more than 90% automation level. The project was completed under 3 months time.