



RiverPoint Group's Expertise Ensures Successful Sybase-to-Oracle Migration

Database Migration/Project Management

Client

A leading commercial, property-casualty and life insurance company.

Situation

The client was migrating from a Sybase® database system to Oracle® 8.1.7. The Sybase system supported 18 of the client's proprietary applications responsible for performing critical business functions including data warehousing, underwriting, customer management, policy administration and pricing/quoting. The migration project required the conversion of:

- 18 Sybase databases
- 308 UNIX scripts
- 1,306 dynamic SQL statements
- 2,280 stored procedures
- 405 triggers
- 1,500 tables

The project was to be completed within a condensed timeframe to ensure it met appropriate year-end closing deadlines. Therefore, the client needed a partner with the necessary resources, Sybase and Oracle experience, project and risk management processes, insurance industry knowledge and subject matter expertise to implement and manage a migration of this magnitude within the very short timeframe.

Solution

The client selected RiverPoint Group for a number of reasons including:

- Proven success on past projects and solid understanding of the client's existing environment
- Rare combination of client, industry and subject matter expertise
- Established project and risk management principles (Check Point Risk Management Method)
- In-depth understanding of both Sybase and Oracle databases
- Oracle alliance partnership
- Offsite development facility

Project Management

To manage the project, RiverPoint leveraged its proprietary Check Point Risk Management Method™, which encompasses basic project management principles and provides a powerful risk management tool in the form of "check points" throughout the software development cycle. These check points help project managers evaluate whether software development is on track and whether risk is being properly mitigated.

Project Tasks

To complete the migration from Sybase to Oracle, the RiverPoint team used its proven phased database migration approach, comprising:

- Phase 1 – Assessment & Discovery
- Phase 2 – Project Planning & Preparation
- Phase 3 – Detailed Design
- Phase 4 – Development & Code Testing
- Phase 5 – Quality Assurance & User Acceptance Testing
- Phase 6 – Implementation & Observation

Activities performed included:

- Migrated each Sybase application database to Oracle 8.1.7, including all tables, indexes, referential integrity constraints, triggers, stored procedures, custom data types and related application data.
- Adapted all Sybase T-SQL to equivalent Oracle PL/SQL syntax in all stored procedures and application-based dynamic SQL.
- Adapted all impacted UNIX scripts and schedules.
- Adapted all identified front-end applications and interface programs.
- Performance tuned all queries to meet target performance requirements.

Solution: Project Tasks (cont'd)

- Recommended Oracle 8.1.7 server configurations.
- Conducted systems testing of all applications and their interfaces.
- Facilitated user acceptance testing of all applications and their interfaces.

Key deliverables included:

- Oracle systems architecture design
- Oracle development database
- Executed test plans with actual results
- Executed user acceptance test plan with actual results
- Fully functional client application

At the end of the Implementation & Observation phase, the RiverPoint team worked with the client's application support team to ensure proper knowledge transfer, training on the new database system and release of the source code post implementation.

Benefits

The client is looking to Web-enable its business over the next three years. The successful migration to Oracle is one of the first steps in the client accomplishing its goal. Other long-term migration benefits include:

- Enhanced access to critical data
- Improved data integrity
- Performance improvements/operating costs reduction
- Improved level of confidence in scalability of system and future support of database technology