



French Social Security and Benefit Management Agency Modernizes Infrastructure and Reduces Costs by 50% with UniKix Rehosting Technology

“Our application is essential to French citizens, who rely on it for accurate information for their social benefits obligations. We needed a cost-effective way to maintain this important application and we wanted to take advantage of new technologies to improve services. Rehosting to open systems with Clerity delivers significant cost savings, preserves our application investment, and offers many options for new services.”
Niculina Garaiacu, IT Development Manager, CCVRP

Highlights:

- Reduced annual operating costs by 50 percent
- Cut batch processing window from hours to minutes
- Gained greater flexibility for testing and simulation
- Improved access to IT workforce with open systems expertise
- Introduced expanded information access options to end users

The need to rein in skyrocketing IBM mainframe operating costs, preserve an essential benefit management application, and open up opportunities for new services to users were motivating factors in CCVRP’s decision to seek a solution to replace its inflexible legacy environment. The organization found the perfect fit with UniKix™ mainframe rehosting software from Clerity Solutions, Inc. (Clerity).

CCVRP provides essential social benefits management system

Officially known as Caisse Nationale de Compensation des Cotisations de Sécurité Sociale des Voyageurs, Représentants et Placiers de Commerce à Cartes Multiples, CCVRP has been a major part of the French social and unemployment benefits system since 1948. CCVRP acts as a benefit administrator for sales people in France who are sales agents representing multiple companies. The agency helps them manage and administer the required legal contributions to the healthcare, pension, workman’s compensation, unemployment, and other government benefits programs.

High costs and modernization requirements drive change

CCVRP operations were based on a mainframe environment with online IBM® CICS® transactions and batch applications. However, the annual costs involved with the mainframe hardware and software maintenance licenses had grown to such a high level that the institution sought an up-to-date technology solution to lower ongoing operations expenses. At the same time, CCVRP wanted to improve performance, yet maintain the decades of investment it had in the IBM CICS application that serves as a central repository for benefit and pension information; it could not take the risk of rewriting this essential application.

“We could not have any gaps in service and unexpected problems later,” explained Jean Louis Bertrand, IT Operational Manager at CCVRP. “The transition had to be seamless and certain. In addition, we wanted to minimize the cost of

changing to a new platform, because the expense and time involved with a risky rewrite project was not possible.”

CCVRP evaluated several options, which included staying in a mainframe environment, rehosting the existing mainframe application to open systems, or developing a new application on open systems.

CCVRP selects UniKix mainframe rehosting technology on open systems

After all options were carefully screened, CCVRP found that one met all of its criteria. It chose UniKix mainframe rehosting technology and migration services from Clerty to maintain the value of its application, while taking advantage of the lower costs and greater flexibility of open systems servers.

UniKix™ Transaction Processing Environment (TPE) and UniKix™ Batch Processing Environment (BPE) software allowed CCVRP to rehost its operations to a three server distributed environment, using Oracle® Solaris™ servers. The first server was dedicated to software development as a development and test machine. The second server was used for quality assurance and integration, and the third was for production. Clerty performed the rehosting work in a project that was completed in just six months.

“Clerty’s UniKix technology allowed us to closely replicate our mainframe operations on open systems,” said Niculina Garaiacu. “Our programs moved over to the open systems platform with minimal change and our developers were able to quickly come up to speed in the new environment.”

Rehosting benefits for CCVRP

Since the rehosting project was completed, CCVRP has seen a number of important benefits.

Most importantly, annual operating costs of the new system are just half of what they were with the previous mainframe. This is a significant benefit for CCVRP, allowing them to allocate these resources to other important areas and fund new IT initiatives.

In terms of performance, one of the most significant benefits is the reduction of the daily batch processing window from hours to just minutes. This reduction means that CCVRP no longer has to worry about the batch workload outgrowing the window of time available for it.

With the new open systems infrastructure, CCVRP now can take advantage of a well-trained open systems team that already exists within the company. It also opens the door for future staffing needs by providing greater access to IT skills; the workforce pool for open systems is much larger than for mainframes.

Technology benefits have also been important to the company. There is now greater flexibility for testing and simulation, and they can take greater advantage of open systems standards. The change has allowed CCVRP to put better security in place, and it also provides the option to provide all history online for users to access in an easy fashion.

In the future, CCVRP plans to evolve its systems and integrate the electronic document management and telephone systems with the rehosted environment, a much easier task since it is now an open systems environment.

About Clerty

Clerty is a leading full-service provider of legacy migration, modernization, and optimization solutions. Drawing from over 16 years of experience, Clerty recognizes that companies have significant investments in core applications and procedures and provides a wealth of low risk, high value tools, technology, and services to reduce IT costs without sacrificing current functionality and service level agreements. Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois with offices worldwide, Clerty has customers in all in major countries, including some of the largest financial services ISVs and Fortune-class end users.

Learn how Clerty can provide an evolutionary path forward for your application and data environments at www.clerty.com.



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