

Project Note

Data migration – Key to host replacement

The cost of data migration in connection with the replacement of outmoded applications is often underestimated. Thanks to Zühlke's experience and efforts, the extensive data were ready for the new application on schedule.

Task

The periodic monthly payments of the Swiss National Accident Insurance Fund (Suva) had been managed by a host application for over 30 years. Suva wanted to replace this application with a modern solution.

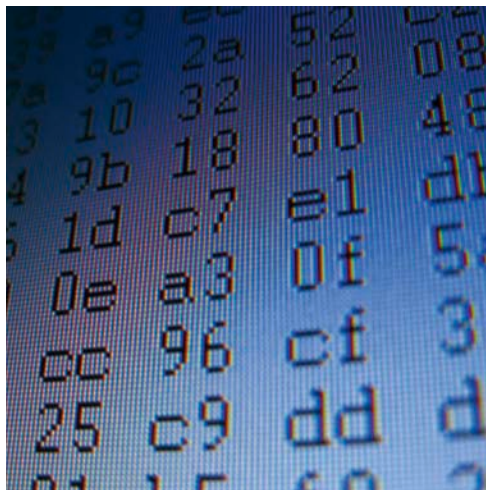
The data migration not only had to accommodate a change in philosophy in the database technology but also uncover incorrect inputs so data quality could be improved. More than 99.5 percent of the monthly payments had to be correct during the switchover!

Implementation

The data migration was divided into several steps. First, additional information was added to the data still existing in the host environment being replaced. To facilitate further processing, these data were distributed among several files. The final step involved distributing the data to the new structure, which was then loaded directly into the new relational database. Zühlke's solution for this task was to copy directly into the database. As a result, the new application did not have to replicate all the rules and checks according to whatever laws were in force since the founding of Suva. Several test runs with elaborate test programs specially developed for the purpose showed that the migration had achieved the specified data quality. Now, nothing more stood in the way of a final migration run on the replacement date for the old software.



suva



Technical Data

Data Junction

Hierarchical Database IMS

Relational Database DB2

SQL

Test automation

Customer benefits

- The solution achieved the specified data quality thanks to sound planning by the Zühlke project management in the migration subproject.
- The prerequisite for replacing the old application was therefore satisfied.
- Zühlke gave the customer crucial support in the form of systematic automated tests accompanied by progress monitoring to achieve the desired quality on schedule.

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