

Project Note

Optimisation proposals for software architecture

An insurance company commissioned Zühlke to investigate the reasons for performance bottlenecks in a software application. The findings from the architectural assessment were then used to inform investment decisions.

Task

Swiss Life uses a software application for complex insurance calculations which is now starting to feel the strain in terms of performance and the functionality it can offer. The company is planning an extensive redesign of the system application. The company has already implemented a number of measures, but there is still the need for action in a number of areas. Considerable investment is required in order to implement the measures that have been defined. Swiss Life therefore wants a second opinion and has commissioned Zühlke to subject the proposed software architecture to an assessment in order to help the company with its investment decision.

Implementation

Using our Architecture Assessment Framework® (ZAAF) as the basis, Zühlke assessed the effectiveness of the catalogue of measures planned for implementation by carrying out interviews, studying the architecture and design documents and analysing the code base. The processing of the results of extensive performance tests was an important intermediate step in this process. This assessment allowed the Zühlke specialists to identify the core reasons for the performance problems. Further analysis then focused on the components with the greatest potential for optimisation. One of the most important results of the architecture assessment was the realisation that the originally planned measures would not significantly improve the system performance. As an alternative, Zühlke proposed an optimisation of the application workflow and the associated communication channels with surrounding systems. The result would be greater optimisation potential in return for a smaller investment.



Technical Data

Zühlke Architecture Assessment Framework® (ZAAF)

Customer benefits

- Thanks to the Zühlke expertise, the client avoided investing in measures that would not have been effective.
- Zühlke's findings allows the client to optimise the system in those areas with the greatest potential for improvement.
- The independent opinion of external specialists, with experience gained in similar projects and the use of the ZAAF, facilitated the search for possible areas for optimisation.

Zühlke Engineering AG
Wiesenstrasse 10a
8952 Schlieren (Zurich)
Switzerland

Phone +41 44 733 6611
Fax +41 44 733 6612
zuerich@zuehlke.com
www.zuehlke.com

© Zühlke