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empowering ideas

Project Note

Review of Trade Confirmation Architecture

A business critical legacy trade confirmation system was assessed by Zühlke for its viability and suitability for the future, given mergers and acquisitions in the finance sector and resulting increased trade flows.

Task

A top tier global Asset Manager has a trade confirmation system built over ten years ago, which is required to handle an increased number of trade flows. The time it takes to process the flows is increasing, to the extent that it is no longer acceptable. The system will be required to be able to process a 10-fold increase in the number of incoming trades, in a 10th of the time, and the client was uncertain whether the system will cope and what remediation would be required.

Implementation

Zühlke's engineers interviewed the stakeholders and looked at the team structure and the development process. They analysed the architecture and the code of the system, and collected numerous metrics, which they then analysed. Based on this analysis, they concluded that the system is viable and matches the business well, provided that performance and reliability issues are addressed. Zühlke proposed a new architecture, to which the core components of the systems should be migrated. Specialists proved the viability of that architecture, by examining the performance of systems implemented in that architecture. The final conclusion was that re-engineering the current system was cheaper and faster than replacing it. The client received a number of documents and presentations to prepare the decision to be made by its senior management.

Customer benefits

- The client was persuaded by Zühlke's quantitative argument that the system in its current state would not be able to satisfy the new requirements.
- Zühlke suggested to refactor the system rather than replacing it. The client will benefit from this approach, which is cheaper and will deliver the improvements earlier.

Technical Data

Operating system:
Solaris

Back end:
Java
Sybase Stored Procedures
C
C++

Database:
Sybase

Front-End:
Visual Basic 3

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