



Southeastern Data

C O O P E R A T I V E , I N C .

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With the impending demise of the HP 3000, MPE and TurboImage, there is no need to explain why we were interested in hearing about the OpenTurbo migration solution from iMaxsoft. In spite of our long and successful relationship as an iMaxsoft customer, OpenTurbo seemed almost too good to be true. It promised to automatically design and create an Oracle database from our existing TurboImage database, convert all of the data and populate the Oracle tables. Then, via their Image emulator, we would be able to run our existing COBOL programs (re-compiled under MicroFocus), against the Oracle database on the HP 9000, using the existing TurboImage intrinsics, unchanged.

To make a long story short, we agreed to a proof-of-concept test using our most complex database and two of our most complicated COBOL programs. After some minor code modifications to resolve the differences between HP COBOL and MicroFocus, which I will describe later, we were ready to go. The database conversion went without a hitch and we were impressed and amazed when the COBOL programs ran correctly on the first try, with no modifications to the TurboImage navigation or the business logic. Needless to say, we have selected OpenTurbo as our migration solution and we are currently in the process of preparing all of our several thousand COBOL programs for the MicroFocus environment. When that is completed, we will be entirely on the HP-UX platform and can then begin to assess and refine our databases and COBOL for the pure SQL environment.

As I mentioned earlier, some code changes are necessary in order to compile and run the HP COBOL programs under MicroFocus. Many of these are universally true and we were able to write a filter program to automate the process. In the case of the MPE Intrinsic calls, however, we found it necessary to examine each case and develop a set of rules (our Migration Cook Book) for our programmers to follow in making the code changes. Many of the Intrinsic calls become unnecessary under Unix and can thus be deleted from the code. Others have direct equivalents in Unix and still others need to be approached anew. Regardless, this still represents a very minor programming effort when considered in light of the complete rewrite that would be necessary if we had to move directly to a SQL database navigational model in the code.

One cannot minimize the huge amount of effort involved in migrating from the HP 3000 platform but it would be hard for us to imagine a less painless path than that provided for us with iMaxsoft / OpenTurbo. With it, we are able to focus on the migration and training issues, leaving the redesign considerations to a time when we have developed some depth of experience and expertise in the new environment and have both the time and the resources to address them.