

UniGroup bases application upgrade strategy on IBM System z



UniGroup's application modernization strategy was featured in the January/February 2010 issue of *Mainframe Executive* magazine.* To read the full article, visit <http://bit.ly/UniGroup>

The parent of United Van Lines and Mayflower Transit, UniGroup is one of the largest privately owned transportation companies in the U.S. Their annual revenues are \$1.6 billion. Other subsidiaries of the company include Vanliner Insurance Company, Trans Advantage, United Mayflower Container Services, and UniGroup Worldwide UTS.

Challenge

As part of a plan to modernize their COBOL-based applications, UniGroup had to choose between a centralized mainframe architecture and a distributed systems architecture to serve as the foundation for a new IT infrastructure and development environment. To make the best choice, the company conducted a total cost of ownership (TCO) study, in addition to evaluating the pros and cons of each architecture.

Solution

UniGroup ultimately elected to upgrade their IBM System z mainframe environment to build a dynamic infrastructure that would support the application upgrade. The company leveraged IBM System z Application Assist Processor (zAAP) technology to reduce hardware and software acquisition costs associated with upgrading the mainframe, and to improve application performance. The zAAP specialty processors have allowed UniGroup to offload 90 percent of the company's Java™ workload.

UniGroup also standardized their information infrastructure environment on IBM WebSphere middleware and other IBM solutions. A powerful mix of IBM software products facilitates integration and data sharing, which helps keep operational costs down.



Solution components

- IBM System z® with IBM zAAP
 - IBM DB2® for z/OS
 - IBM WebSphere® middleware
 - IBM Rational® application development software
 - IBM CICS®
 - IBM Content Manager OnDemand
-

Benefits

- Nearly tripled MIPS processed without increasing administrative costs
- Reduced energy usage despite significantly increasing workloads
- Reduced data center footprint

For more information

For more information about IBM System z solutions, contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit us at: ibm.com/systems/z.

For more information about UniGroup, visit: www.unigroupinc.com



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- * Clabby, Joe, "UniGroup's Application Modernization: zAAP Helps Transportation Company Remain an Industry Leader," *Mainframe Executive*, January/February 2010. <http://bit.ly/UniGroup>



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