



Cashco migrates customised system from OpenVMS to a fresh, sustainable environment

Cashco was running its entire operation on a highly customised, long-standing OpenVMS system. They wanted to reduce their dependency on this ageing platform, mitigate the risk of skills shortages and use the latest database tools - while at the same time retaining their valuable business logic.



The Customer

Cashco, Inc. is a leading manufacturer of a broad line of control valves, pressure reducing regulators and back pressure regulators used for a variety of industrial applications at oil, gas, and coal plants around the globe.

The Challenge

Cashco was running its entire operation on a highly customised OpenVMS system that had been developed over 25 years. Cashco's various applications were written in OpenVMS Fortran and made use of an Oracle database. The Cashco leadership team realised that they needed to ensure their system would be sustainable in the future, and identified three main business drivers to be addressed:

- > Dependency on an ageing OpenVMS platform
- > Inability to use the latest Oracle database tools and capabilities
- > Scarcity of the skill set required to maintain their applications.

The Solution

We conducted a PathFinder assessment in order to evaluate the issues, solution, costs, and timescales to migrate the Cashco OpenVMS system to a Linux open systems platform.

We determined that Cashco's biggest limitation was their use of the Fortran programming language. Fortran programmers are increasingly hard to find and Oracle is no longer providing the Fortran pre-compiler that enables a connection between Fortran coded applications and Oracle databases.

Based on this challenge we proposed translating Cashco's Fortran code to C, which would allow them to upgrade to the latest Oracle database version. Originally Cashco had hoped to retain their Fortran code because it appeared the simplest path, but Cashco agreed that our recommendation was the better solution, and decided to move forward with us as their migration partner.

Client >

Cashco

Sector >

Manufacturing

Project >

OpenVMS Application Migration

"Our aging HP Alpha Servers needed to be replaced, and we needed to future-proof our system from an application, hardware and staffing perspective."

Shaun Thornton >
IT Manager >
Cashco

Cashco migrates system from OpenVMS

Major Benefits

With our help, Cashco successfully migrated their OpenVMS system to an environment consisting of Oracle Enterprise Linux, Oracle Solaris Studio, and the latest Oracle 11g database.

The new system performs 4-5 times faster on the new hardware, the new database supports an enhanced user interface and mobility options, and the switch to a modern programming language has mitigated the risk of skill shortages.

Cashco was able to retain their existing business logic thus extending the business value of their investment in custom applications, without disruption to daily business and without retraining of end users.

“Advanced's ability to modernise a system by performing a language translation as the application is being migrated to an open systems platform speaks volumes about their expertise as an OpenVMS resource.”

Shaun Thornton >
IT Manager >
Cashco

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