



Ca-Ideal Datacom Applications “Converted To Oracle”

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FACED WITH A DEADLINE TO
REMOVE KITS FROM THE
MAINFRAME IN LESS THAN
18 MONTHS”**

Alliance Coal, headquartered in Tulsa, is the eighth largest coal producer in the Eastern United States. With seven mines in Kentucky, Maryland, Indiana and Illinois, Alliance Coal supplies coal to power generation companies throughout the United States. Their ‘home-grown’ KITS application (Koal Invoice Tracking System) is Alliance Coal’s core revenue producing application.

About Alliance Coal

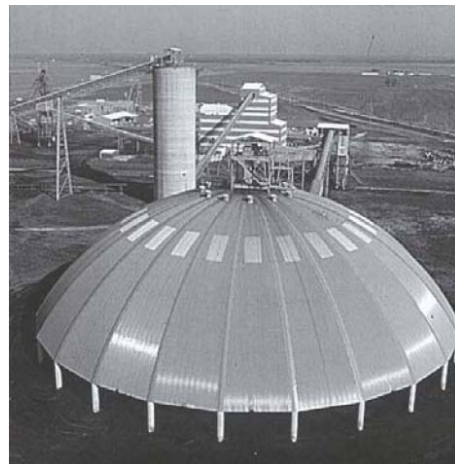
Alliance Coal was divested from their parent company Mapco, Inc., into a privately held stand-alone company. Within two years Alliance Coal would have to remove all their applications from the corporate mainframe. “Due to the lengthy process of the divestiture we were suddenly faced with a deadline to move KITS from the mainframe in less than 18 months” explained Dan Taylor – Senior Systems Analyst at Alliance Coal.

**“...COMPUTER ASSOCIATES
SEEMED THE ONLY VIABLE
OPTION...”**

Searching for a solution

“CA came out to see us and illustrated how we could move KITS to IDEAL-DATACOM for UNIX,” explained Dan “but we were concerned about the performance of IDEAL-DATACOM on UNIX.”

**PREPARATION PLANT
AND COAL STORAGE
FACILITIES AT THE
PATTIKI MINE IN
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS**





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“...M2O CERTAINLY
KNEW WHAT THEY WERE
TALKING ABOUT...”

A more attractive alternative

“As luck would have it I received a ‘sales flyer’ from m2o that illustrated how, with its product I2C (IDEAL to COBOL) we could migrate from CA-IDEAL DATACOM to COBOL under Oracle. Although we were about to sign a deal with CA, as they seemed to be the only viable option, we were suddenly offered a more attractive alternative. Especially as Oracle was our preferred database,” said Dan.

Migrate to a UNIX, NT or a client server solution

I2C converts CA-IDEAL and CA-DATACOM applications to COBOL running under UNIX, VMS, MVS, VSE or NT/98. I2C allows you to easily and accurately migrate to a UNIX, NT or a client server solution while still retaining your investment in your existing CA-IDEAL applications. The converted applications run as fully functional character based screens against any of the major RDBMSs such as Oracle, Sybase or the DB2 family.

The comfort factor

“I made a call to m2o to discuss I2C in more detail. We were very impressed with Huw Price of m2o – he immediately illustrated his thorough knowledge of the CA-IDEAL DATACOM environment. This gave us a great comfort factor – the success of the migration was absolutely critical. m2o were able to allay any fears we initially had,” explained Dan.

Converting the code to COBOL

“One of my biggest concerns” Dan illustrated, “was converting the code to COBOL. Although we were more than happy moving to Oracle, we were unsure how COBOL would perform. Now though, the KITS application is one of best performing applications we have – it represents the easiest application to maintain. We are more than impressed.”



"...THE M2O TEAM WORKED EXCEPTIONALLY HARD..."

Geography not an issue

"As we were based in the South West of the US we were initially concerned about dealing with a company based in England. The success of the project was critical to us and it was not as if we could jump in the car and visit m2o if there were pressing issues to deal with."

"m2o were of course aware of this and always proved more than flexible. The team that managed the conversion worked exceptionally hard. Stephen Cirel – the Senior Conversion Consultant at m2o – was excellent. His knowledge of the conversion process, including the table definitions and indexes, was instrumental in the success of our conversion. We have been up and running on Oracle for the last 18 months and the system has been running very well."

"...AN INTERESTING MIGRATION..."

Over 800 CA-IDEAL programs

The migration consisted of over 800 CA-IDEAL programs, and associated panels and reports. In addition the data had to be migrated from over 200 CA-Datacom tables to associated Oracle tables. The system was migrated to AIX UNIX and the users accessed the application via terminal emulators.

Technical challenges

Huw Price, m2o's technical manager explained that "This migration was quite interesting, Mapco (Alliance Coal) were moving their operating system, their language and their database. There were some technical challenges on the way; however, the conversion team quickly overcame all of these. From a practical point of view, the testing of the new system and the establishment of the new infrastructure are the hardest parts."

'Look and Feel' of the result

"There was very little user retraining required as the look and feel of the applications remained the same. The users were very cooperative and ran several days in parallel to ensure the correct running of the new system."

The Leading Experts in Data Conversions and Migrations

Automated CA-Datcom Migration and Conversion

m2o is a leading provider of data migration and application conversion solutions that unlock the value of relational databases and legacy systems. m2o specializes in transforming legacy applications, including automated conversions from CA-IDEAL to open languages such as COBOL and Java and migrations from CA-Datcom to open databases such as CA-Ingres, Oracle, DB2 and SQL Server. m2o provides automated conversion tools and migration services that offer wide platform coverage, exceptional accuracy and clear Return on Investment that are unmatched by any other vendor or solution. m2o has over ten years experience with a worldwide customer base of blue-chip organizations that benefit from its unique expertise and automated tools.



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