



We are now running a solid platform that performs extremely well and positions us well for the future. Capgemini has been a partner for Black & Veatch for a number of years, especially on the enterprise applications side. They have demonstrated their ability to take on projects of this magnitude and perform them well."

Doug Whorton

Director Applications and Data Analytics, Black & Veatch

Black & Veatch migration delivers continuity and numbers at speed

Capgemini drives transition to keep critical applications running while preparing for the future

Headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas, Black & Veatch is an employee-owned engineering, procurement, consulting, and construction company with a 100-year legacy of creating a better world for today, and for generations to come. As a trusted partner, it helps clients make their vision into a reality.

Operating globally, the company has more than 10,000 employees in 50 countries supporting a wide variety of infrastructure projects.

Preparing for the end of life

Black & Veatch had an aging server infrastructure that was coming to the end of its life, but which supported widely accessed business and accounting applications. Phasing it out was a planned change but there was concern about the mission-critical applications used by employees around the world on a regular basis. Applications such as Oracle EBS Suite, PeopleSoft HCM, and numerous custom modules were all needed to support business reporting and timesheet applications.

After reviewing a number of options, the decision was made to migrate the business-critical applications and databases from existing servers to the new HPE Synergy Linux-based platform. This more modern platform would carry the company for the next five years and help build a base for a future move into the cloud.



“With the number of customizations we have on our platform, we were challenged to move everything we needed at once, so we had to have a modern server infrastructure that could manage the load,” says Doug Whorton, Director Applications and Data Analytics, Black & Veatch.

Hitting the payroll window

With so many employees using the back-office system, the IT team needed to communicate the change effectively and make a smooth transition with minimal interruption to the business. And the migration team needed to complete the project within a specific timeframe or the process would have to be delayed, resulting in financial implications and delays in subsequent initiatives.

“Working with the accounting and payroll systems meant we had to accommodate cut off dates, so we had very small windows to migrate to the new system and we wanted to do it in the current financial year,” says Whorton. “If we didn’t make the window, we would have to wait another three months before we could move forward.”

Black & Veatch chose Capgemini to lead the migration team. With a significant number of custom applications and other software involved, the migration team involved multiple third-party suppliers and other stakeholders.

The Capgemini-led migration team worked with Black & Veatch to evaluate existing systems and compile technical specifications and requirements for the servers, databases, components, and licensing needs before developing the timeline to deliver the migration.

Migration with increased efficiency

The cut over was originally planned to take three and a half days, starting on a Friday evening, but the team delivered a day early, so Black & Veatch employees experienced no down time.

While the need to upgrade the infrastructure drove the migration, Black & Veatch has also realized additional benefits. Employees immediately noticed the improved speed in the new system, and the increased processing power reduced the number of CPUs and licenses required.

“As a result of the migration, we have seen business processes run much faster with more streamlined results,” says Whorton. “We had some batch processes that ran for hours and which are now much faster. For example, we had one process that went from four hours of run time to 45 minutes, and some went from two hours to two minutes. We did not migrate for the speed benefits, but we have been pleasantly surprised with the results.”

For the company, the migration is an interim step towards more IT modernization. It is looking to move all its platforms to a cloud-based architecture and an expanded development environment in the future.

Technology solutions

- HPE Synergy Linux-based platform

About Capgemini

A global leader in consulting, technology services and digital transformation, Capgemini is at the forefront of innovation to address the entire breadth of clients’ opportunities in the evolving world of cloud, digital and platforms. Building on its strong 50-year heritage and deep industry-specific expertise, Capgemini enables organizations to realize their business ambitions through an array of services from strategy to operations. Capgemini is driven by the conviction that the business value of technology comes from and through people. It is a multicultural company of over 200,000 team members in more than 40 countries. The Group reported 2018 global revenues of EUR 13.2 billion (about \$15.6 billion USD at 2018 average rate).

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