

Information



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Placer County Migrates Last GCOS Applications to Windows

After more than a quarter century of running critical applications on GCOS platforms, the County of Placer in Auburn, California, finally disconnected its last Bull mainframe in January.

Back in the mid 1980's, Placer County supported all of its County applications on two, high-end coupled DPS 7 computers, and was one of the largest GCOS 7 sites in the U.S. In the late 80's and early 90's, the County implemented a strategy of selecting best-of-breed applications for each of the County departments, tying them all together through a showcase enterprise networking environment. All the major County applications on the GCOS mainframe were replaced, with the exception of the Payroll system, which proved to be elusive.

Two concerted attempts were made to replace the Payroll system, but both were abandoned after failing to meet the County's needs. After a successful Y2K

compliance project through InfoSol, the County decided to migrate its Payroll system to a Windows NT/2000 environment using the GDT-TS Migration toolset. The project began at the beginning of 2001 with a successful cutover into live production in October.

The applications consisted of 120 batch programs, 43 on-line programs (TPR's) with hard-coded screens (some using a home grown screen generator), 53 UFAS files and 168 sets of JCL. InfoSol performed all the source migration tasks, and assisted Placer County staff with the acceptance testing and operational transition. The County still plans to eventually replace its Payroll system, but in the meantime, they will be making substantial operational and support savings by running on a Windows NT/2000 server that cost a fraction of the price of their GCOS mainframe.

KEY SPECIFICS

- In production since October 2001 after 9-month migration project.
- Some delay due to customer staff availability for testing phases.
- Heavy console operations transitioned smoothly using GDT console manager.
- Batch jobs ran significantly faster in new environment.