

STRATEGY, ARCHITECTURE, AND PLANNING DELIVER NEAR-REALTIME INFORMATION, INPLENTY OF TIME

Business Challenge

Our client, a well-respected financial services information provider and ratings organization, faced a compliance-driven requirement to enable rapid information release to their own clients. The architecture of their participating systems, developed over the years, reflected the evolution of information technology. Unfortunately, none of those systems had requirements for near-realtime response. Moreover, the technology infrastructure and client-shared services were not oriented toward rapid response

Solution

Luxoft conducted a series of requirements workshops to determine which classes of information, managed by which systems, were in-scope for this near-realtime enablement. Concurrently, Luxoft initiated a series of meetings with staff technology architects familiar with the technology infrastructure, data services, and other elements of architecture necessary to achieve our client's desired result. Our executive sponsor advised us of the enterprise architecture review cycle in which we would be required to participate, and we established a liaison with the client's chief architect and head of the Enterprise Architecture Board, as preliminary steps.

Luxoft's project manager, in concert with the client's senior program director, orchestrated a steady flow of interview subjects to gather necessary information without disrupting the client's daily business. As strategists and architects, we proposed several alternative technological approaches, each of which would assert varying degrees of impact on the client's existing technology infrastructure, software development skills, and culture. For each proposed alternative, we prepared a fit/gap analysis, indicating where we would need infrastructure, process change, and skill addition or enhancement. Technology acquisitions also had a cultural impact on our client, as highly placed and deeply held beliefs on the need for and use of certain middleware were called into question.

In conjunction with the client's chief architect, we advocated a "best fit" architecture, and presented our concept to the client's enterprise architecture board. We received a mandate to build a prototype solution. Accordingly, we selected and negotiated with participating technology vendors, within the confines of preferred vendor lists and willingness of vendors to engage in significant pre-sales installation, configuration, and advisory activities. With appropriate vendor support, we created a working prototype to demonstrate the soundness of the architectural approach, while gaining insight into cultural, procedural, and

technological challenges that a fully implemented solution would likely face.

With the board's approval of both our prototype and our overall architecture, we provided our executive sponsor with budgetary information to sell a winning business case to top management.

Results

- We gathered and refined an agreed-upon set of business requirements for satisfying a critical regulatory demand
- We translated the business requirements set into an integrated series of technology requirements
- Our client verified, validated, and approved all requirements
- We developed a family of architectures capable of meeting stated requirements
- Our client authorized us to produce a prototype of our architecture of choice
- We presented our architecture and prototype results to the client's enterprise architecture review board
- Our client received board approval for both technology architecture and business case
- We were invited by our client to bid on the implementation of this project
- Our client selected us as the winning implementation vendor
- We successfully delivered the entire near-realtime enablement project within budget and required timeframe



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