



Česká Pojišťovna structures application development process

HPE Systinet generates common standards
for key business applications

Objective

Required a comprehensive solution to help architects use common standards for the integration of key business applications

Approach

Opted for an established software developer that offered value-for-money

IT Matters

- Provides a single interface to access multi-layer, component-based applications, reducing integration maintenance times
- Offers a structured, application development process, maximising visibility
- Simplifies integrations and aides analysis
- Defines roles and responsibilities, aiding cooperation and reducing risk

Business Matters

- Offers a single service repository for all applications, enhancing governance and ensuring effective impact analysis
- Lowers service analysis costs by 20 per cent, delivering a return on investment within one year
- Enforces policies, ensuring applications deliver maximum business value to the company



Česká Pojišťovna, part of the Italian Assicurazioni Generali Group, deploys HPE Systinet software to create common standards for the integration of key business applications. A single service repository for applications and services enhances governance and ensures effective impact analysis. Service analysis costs fall by 20 per cent, delivering a return on investment within one year.

Challenge

Czech insurance market

Following the introduction of a competitive environment in 1991, the size, sophistication and resilience of the insurance market in the Czech Republic is now similar to Western European countries and outpacing peers in Central and Eastern European states. More recently the non-life insurance market, which includes motor, property, travel and pet insurance, has shrunk due to the economic downturn and intense local competition. However, the life insurance sector has remained stable and strong.

“With very few offerings and limited expertise in this specialised market, we were pleased to learn about HPE Systinet, especially when the Hewlett Packard Enterprise development team is based locally. Moreover, we’d built a good working relationship and the solution offers excellent value-for-money.”

– Eduard Niko, IT architect, formerly of Česká Pojišťovna

Four subsidiaries of multinationals dominate the insurance industry in the Czech Republic. Česká Pojišťovna, part of the Italian Assicurazioni Generali Group, specialises in life and non-life insurance products for clients of all sizes within the industrial, business and agricultural sectors. Česká Pojišťovna holds eight million policies and approximately 25 per cent of the market.

Delivering business value

As more and more businesses shift to modern applications with shared service and application components, IT departments retire legacy programs. Accessing these outdated applications with a new user interface reduces the time spent maintaining integrations between applications and involves adopting new processes and enforcing policies to develop and work with multilayer, component-based applications.

At Česká Pojišťovna, a Service Orientated Architecture (SOA) comprising 181 Simple Object Access Protocols (SOAP), 768 operations and 559 dependencies between services and applications had evolved over many years.

“With no service repository and registry in place, very little information existed and the integration platform was divided by domains relating to different parts of the business,” explains Eduard Niko, IT architect, formerly of Česká Pojišťovna.

“Integration team members therefore developed individual ad-hoc processes involving Microsoft® Excel and Word files. This lack of integration and the complex nature of interactions led to operational issues. We viewed a move to a modern application architecture as an opportunity to maximise business value.”

Accordingly, the company sought a comprehensive solution to help architects use common standards for the integration patterns of key business applications across the organisation.

“The tool needed to ease integration, aid analysis and save time and money during implementation without affecting existing business processes,” continues Niko.



The solution also had to help the architects and analysts evaluate, plan, develop and deploy services while effectively supporting enterprise business services and future capacity planning. These new capabilities support the delivery of business value by applications across the organisation.

“With very few offerings and limited expertise in this specialised market, we were pleased to learn about HPE Systinet, especially when the Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) R&D as well as Professional Services teams are based locally,” declares Niko. “Moreover, we’d built a good working relationship and the solution offers excellent value-for-money.”

Solution

Maximum visibility

HPE Systinet provides structure, control and consistency to the application development process within a Service Orientated Architecture. This powerful product ensures applications conform to IT architectural and technical policies and managed application interactions, offering application teams automated collaboration.

The software simplifies the process of building, sharing and viewing the lifecycle of any re-usable component, providing maximum visibility during each management stage.

The HPE project had three main objectives; introduce a common service repository, improve governance and support further developments. The repository accommodates the registry, lifecycles, policies and contracts together with a visual navigator, any metadata and the application and services catalogue. Integration architects, application silos and external partners therefore interface with the appropriate information.

Improved governance

With clearly defined goals from the onset and continuous transfer of knowledge between both parties, Česká Pojišťovna and HPE quickly consolidated all appropriate information by focussing on key processes.

The repository immediately improved governance by providing information about the integration architecture, supported common standards and unified development processes. Moreover, it clearly defines roles and responsibilities, aiding cooperative support and improving efficiency.

Customer at a glance

Software

- HPE Systinet

HPE services

- HPE Professional Services

“HPE Systinet delivered a return on investment within approximately one year.”

– Eduard Niko, IT architect, formerly of Česká Pojišťovna

Further developments

The final phase involved service design and additional operations. Service design incorporated process analysis, engagement, the integration of business process management tools and service capacity planning. Operations included building an automatic interface with the enterprise service business, governance and CMDB integration.

Benefit

Maximum business value

Today, Česká Pojišťovna's service portfolio resides in a single repository, which holds 108 applications and over 2,000 business documents, services and implementations, with all dependencies clearly visible. It also accommodates protocols, the SOAP services and over 1,200 integration contracts.

“We now have a consistent way to apply and enforce policies and best practices, ensuring applications deliver maximum business value to the company,” adds Niko.

“This is only possible due to the strong position of the architecture team within the company, which is crucial. The common service repository also ensures effective impact analysis, reducing risk.”

Solid return on investment

HPE Systinet has delivered other benefits too. Visibility into the integration layer shortens the system merger process and the financial services sector recognises that Česká Pojišťovna has a highly mature application integration management environment.

Česká Pojišťovna has also experienced financial benefits. “The controlled process for defining service requirements has saved each analyst one to two hours per week, which equates to a 20 per cent reduction in service analysis costs. HPE Systinet delivered a return on investment within approximately one year,” reveals Niko.

“However, there is also immeasurable cost saving in other fields such as development, testing, capacity planning and architecture. Those teams obtain information from HPE Systinet and they don't have to spend time talking to colleagues or writing emails.”

Looking to the future, Niko concludes: “Our new repository will help unify IT across companies within the Czech part of the Group by mapping applications and integrations through a single interface, leading to improved service delivery across the Group.”

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