

Db2 for z/OS Tool Replacement for International Airline

As part of a group-wide cost management and rationalisation effort, a major international airline decided to migrate its mainframe workloads from their aging on-premise System Z servers to IBM's zCloud¹ environment.

Background

This move included the airline's Db2-based, business-critical financial and operational IT systems.

The zCloud strategy promised significant flexibility and cost effectiveness benefits for the airline, but also came with a major technical challenge: the airline's on-premise Db2 environment was supported by a number of tools and utilities supplied by BMC Software, which could not be licenced within the new zCloud environment. It was therefore necessary to replace all Db2 BMC products with their IBM/Rocket equivalents prior to the move to zCloud.

IBM Global Technology Services (GTS) were appointed to manage the zCloud migration project, and engaged their business partner Triton Consulting to undertake all aspects of the Db2 product conversion.

Project objectives



Primary deliverable

Seamless migration to IBM's zCloud¹ adding significant flexibility and cost effectiveness benefits



Technologies used

Db2 utilities suite
IBM Tivoli Omegamon XE for Db2 PE
IBM Db2 Administration Tool
IBM Db2 Object Comparison Tool
IBM Tools Customizer for z/OS
IBM Db2 Sort for z/OS
IBM High Performance Unload for Db2



Principal benefits

Increased flexibility
More cost effective

The Project



Modernise to zCloud services

Triton took responsibility for all aspects of the technical work surrounding the tool replacement, including:

- **Initial discovery** of the client's technical environment and creation of a detailed technical design for the replacement work
- **Technical project management**, coordination and management reporting
- **Installation** of IBM/Rocket tooling in client's on-premise environment, including the Db2 utilities suite, IBM Tivoli Omegamon XE for Db2 PE, IBM Db2 Administration Tool, IBM Db2 Object Comparison Tool, IBM Tools Customizer for z/OS, IBM Db2 Sort for z/OS and IBM High Performance Unload for Db2
- **Conversion and functional testing** of approximately 500 production Db2 housekeeping jobs, from BMC Db2 utilities to IBM equivalents. This made use of Triton's automated conversion routines to dramatically reduce the time, effort and cost associated with the conversion



300

BMC Change Manager migration profiles converted

- **Conversion** of approximately 300 BMC Change Manager migration profiles, to provide equivalent functionality within IBM Admin/Object Compare tool. Again, proprietary automation was used to allow the conversion to be done quickly and accurately
- **Migration** of the client's Db2 performance database from BMC Mainview to IBM Omegamon, together with conversion of bespoke Db2 performance reporting programs to work against the new database
- **Technical education** for airline technical staff to allow them to understand and use the new IBM tooling

Summary and outcome

The conversion project had to overcome some significant technical hurdles.

These included:

- A lack of recent preventative maintenance on the client's Db2 systems
- Technical incompatibilities between the BMC and IBM products
- Meeting demanding performance requirements for some key application housekeeping jobs despite the fact that the airline was using an old version of Db2 for z/OS

All of these challenges were successfully addressed, and the client was able to decommission the BMC products in time to support the wider zCloud migration project timescales.



The client is now experiencing increased flexibility and significant cost benefits following the move to zCloud.”

James Gill

Head of Modernisation Services

Why choose Triton

At Triton, we specialise in helping clients modernise their products. If you need to switch from one Db2 product or vendor to another, we can help you migrate all your utilities and operations without a hitch.

We know tool replacement. We are proven experts in tool replacement, having played a key role in many major projects. If you're considering a tool replacement project, we can help.

We'll control cost. Adopting new products can help to simplify Db2 tooling and improve performance for many critical batch operations – and deliver significant savings on licence costs too. We'll help you minimise the financial risks of the move and make sure you realise the savings you're looking for.

You're in control. We'll work with you to put the processes and protocols in place to help you achieve a smooth changeover in tooling with no disruption of your day-to-day operations.

Future development. We'll develop automated tooling to help simplify the maintenance of tools across multiple Db2 subsystems, allowing APARs and new releases to be rolled out rapidly and with minimal risk.

Ongoing support. As well as managing a smooth transition, we can also deliver ongoing management including technical support and training for staff on the new tooling.

1. The zCloud offering is formally known as "IBM Managed Extended Cloud Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) for IBM Z"

Get in touch If you're considering a tool replacement project, talk to our expert team to find out how we can help.

Contact

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