



## HELPING CENTERPOINT ENERGY EFFECTIVELY MANAGE A MAINFRAME MIGRATION PROJECT **ON TIME AND UNDER BUDGET**

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CenterPoint Energy, Inc. recently determined the need to migrate all applications and systems off of the mainframe environments to the UNIX environment. The reasoning behind this new corporate direction is that UNIX software costs and maintenance/support costs are significantly less than mainframe environment costs. Also, mainframe technical knowledge is becoming harder to find. CenterPoint Energy Pipeline Group initiated its Pipeline Mainframe Migration to UNIX project to migrate the existing Pipeline Gas Information System and Gathering Gas Information System from the IBM mainframe environment to an IBM AIX UNIX environment. However, before jumping immediately into the migration project, CenterPoint determined the necessity to first evaluate the feasibility of moving the systems from the mainframe to UNIX. A migration assessment project was conducted to determine feasibility and impact to the organization.

Since many of CenterPoint Energy Pipeline Group's core applications are built on Adabas and Natural, and because Software AG's Adabas database and Natural programming language work the same in the UNIX environment as they do in the mainframe environment, Software AG was selected to work on the migration assessment. The assessment started around the end of March, 2008 and ended in mid-May, 2008. Software AG and its Global Consulting Services team worked closely with CenterPoint to assess all important areas. The Global Consulting Services team listened closely to the customer to understand all aspects of the applications and systems for an in-depth evaluation. The assessment and

ROI were presented to CenterPoint during the last week of May, 2008. Software AG's assessment showed CenterPoint could experience a significant savings by migrating the Pipeline Gas Information System and Gathering Gas Information System to the UNIX environment. Software AG forecasted the return on investment period to be three years. After the initial investment is recouped, the customer expects an annual savings of between 40 and 45%. The initial investment costs include the hardware, software, and migration effort.

The migration project was estimated to take around 12 months and was completed on target. Due to its close working relationship with CenterPoint, Software AG was selected to lead the project. Two Software AG Global Consulting Services consultants worked on-site with CenterPoint. A further six Software AG employees worked on the project remotely via CenterPoint Energy's VPN. They were responsible for the technical setting up and converting of the production databases, programming code, job control language (JCL), reports and unit testing.



### **CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.,**

headquartered in Houston, Texas, is a domestic energy delivery company that includes electric transmission and distribution, natural gas distribution, competitive natural gas sales and services, interstate pipelines, and field services operations. The company serves more than five million metered customers in the U.S., primarily in Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. With about 8,600 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 130 years.

Software AG is also responsible for the data migration including the mainframe permanent flat files. Pipeline IT is responsible for the purchasing, installation, and coordination of the new IBM UNIX servers and for the third party software. ESPBatch, provided by Cronus ([www.cronus.co.za](http://www.cronus.co.za)), was selected as the tool to dynamically generate the UNIX scripts that replace the JCL used by the mainframe batch environment. Cronus also supplied Xitext, a report spooler; ESPAuto (batch scheduler); and ESPControl (change control for NATURAL source). UVSoftware ([www.uvsoftware.ca](http://www.uvsoftware.ca)) provided a series of tools used to convert EBCDIC files to new ASCII format. Pipeline IT is responsible for creating test data, test scripts, test plans, application debugging, system testing, and setting up the test and development environments. The Pipeline Group business users will be responsible for Client Acceptance Testing. Pipeline IT will work closely with the business users during client testing and with the resolving of any potential issues with Software AG.

Client acceptance testing ended July, 2009 and the project was successfully completed August, 2009. By listening to its customer and developing an in-depth working knowledge of the customer's applications and systems, Software AG's Global Consulting Services team is helping CenterPoint Energy to effectively manage its mainframe migration project on time and under budget.

**"Approximately 12 years ago, we did an assessment to determine the feasibility of moving the Pipeline Group's mainframe applications to UNIX. The deliverables from that assessment determined that Software AG Adabas and Natural would perform on UNIX just like they did on the mainframe. However, at that time the UNIX tools for job scheduling and print distribution were not there. The assessment that was conducted in early 2008 determined that the UNIX tools are now there for such a migration effort. Software AG has been a long time partner of the CenterPoint Energy Pipeline Group for approximately 20 years and we contracted with them to lead the mainframe migration effort to UNIX. I have been extremely pleased with Software AG's effort on this migration project. Software AG has also been instrumental in helping us with the learning curve of UNIX. James Gilpin and his staff have been great to work with. They definitely know what they are doing and you can definitely tell that they have done this type of migration before."**

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