

Adaptivity Redesigns Bank IT Platform

By Oksana Poltavets, Dealing With Technology, 25 August 2008

CHARLOTTE, N.C.-A top-tier capital markets firm has called in IT strategy and consultancy Adaptivity to aid the firm in the redesign of its technology platform, DWT has learned.

The firm's goal is to leapfrog its competition in performance and cut transaction costs related to IT by 2010. Adaptivity founder and CEO Tony Bishop says the firm is one of the top 20 in the world, but declines to name it.

"They want to revamp, optimize, or create new capabilities across the value chain where it does not meet the needs of the business in terms of performance, cost, efficiency or competitive advantage," Bishop says.

Adaptivity has been working with the firm for the past two months and hopes to finish the project in the next 30 to 60 days, Bishop says. The Adaptivity team has mapped the top-down business value chain for the firm, including sales, trading, operations, risk and reporting to benchmark the firm with the best-in-class industry numbers of their top competitors, says Bishop, former chief strategist and head of product management at Wachovia. The firm is aiming to reduce end-to-end latency, increase throughput scale at a fraction of the traditional cost, and improve dynamic control of transaction execution with the redesign, according to Bishop.

Then, Adaptivity measured the performance of business transactions end to end, looked at point latency introspection, mapped applications to infrastructure dependencies, and measured the consumption of IT infrastructure resources by application and user to identify gaps and limitations between the industry competitors' numbers and the actual performance of the firm.

Finally, Adaptivity completed a cost analysis of the technology in use to figure out a way to align the firm with its cost and efficiency goals.

Currently, Bishop and his team are working on finalizing the designs of the new platform and technologies and the roadmap of management and infrastructure. According to Bishop, the client wants to pilot and build the new platform by the end of 2009.

The consultancy is also working on a "knowledge-as-a-service" platform to be piloted with clients in the fall, Bishop says. The new offering will be an online wizard and portfolio management system for IT assets that will allow users to maintain their strategies and architecture playbooks in an online, real-time environment.

Adaptivity will populate the online platform with its own, internally developed open-standards methodology, best practices, playbooks and other materials, which customers will be able to use to track and manager their IT jobs like a portfolio, Bishop explains.

Customers can utilize the service to manage any technology project, such as designing a new type of datacenter footprint, he adds.

Adaptivity hopes to have the service, which incorporates service-oriented architecture (SOA), real-time infrastructure and utility computing operating models, in January.

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