Prolifics

True Value Company Builds Enterprise Platform with WebSphere MQ & Enterprise Service Bus

SOA & CONNECTIVITY

SECURITY

Provides faster, more secure message delivery

PERFORMANCE

Offers high availability to create efficiency and faster time-to-value

SCALABILITY

Scales easily to fit new and growing business demands

Client Background

True Value Company, headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, is one of the world's largest retailer-owned hardware cooperatives with sales of over $1.9 billion in 2011. They support 12 distribution centers and more than 4,500 stores across 54 countries.

Business Challenge

To empower retailers, True Value needs to maintain accurate and up-to-date system data for over 60,000 products available to more than 4,500 stores.

True Value historically maintained important data and information with an Oracle-based IT infrastructure that required frequent data replication. However, needing a vehicle to simulate real-time updates without affecting their mainframe, they brought in IBM WebSphere MQ and IBM WebSphere Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) to support approximately 60 applications and 30 to 40 interfaces. This transformed the system mainframe into a central repository of data, storing sensitive business information like item records, vendor information and product pricing details.

True Value felt it was important to migrate to newer versions of these programs. They wanted to remain on a supported platform and avoid costly maintenance premiums. Business leaders aimed to leverage the migration effort as a means to establish an enterprise level solution to provide the connectivity necessary for future growth plans.

Solution

True Value engaged Prolifics to manage the technology migration, focusing on three key components of the project:

- WebSphere MQ migration
- Transition to an enterprise solution
- Training in best practices for True Value associates

Prolifics and True Value conducted a phased approach that combined three stages of migration with hands-on mentoring. These stages included moving from development through to User Acceptance Testing (UAT) and finally onto production.

Using an innovative testing methodology, Prolifics was able to verify the migration step-by-step before taking the new software live. The team used a series of testing scripts to capture messages and analyze input versus output, allowing them to validate test cases as they were set up.

Further, Prolifics used on-demand remote support to provide close supervision throughout the migration process. Team members were able to remotely access True Value's servers to monitor real-time performance and diagnose problems as they occurred.

True Value's migration to the latest versions of MQ and WebSphere ESB has provided them with a better foundation and infrastructure, delivering more resilient connectivity and higher availability that combine to create a more stable, secure and agile infrastructure.

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