



TransUnion z/OS Problem Determination Tool Deployment Project

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TransUnion, LLC



- Founded 40 years ago.
- A global leader in credit and information management.
- Assists businesses manage risk and customer relationships.
- Assists consumers understand and manage credit.
- Supports more than 50,000 customers in 25 countries on five continents and more than 500 million consumers worldwide.

Project Objective



Obtain significant savings in annual licensing fees by replacing products with less costly equivalents.

IBM Replacement Products



- **File Manager** replaced File-AID.
- **Application Performance Analyzer** replaced Strobe.
- **Fault Analyzer** replaced Abend-AID.
- **Debug Tool** replaced Xpetiter (Cobol, PL/I, Assembler and C++).

Project Facts



- Time boxed – 7 months in duration
- 11,600 TU hours + IBM lab and consulting
- Size of the Conversion
 - Over 40,000 JCL jobs (reduced to 6,400 then to 5,000)
 - 400 ISPF Skeletons and CLISTs (out of scope of the original project)
 - 1 COBOL job
 - 3 TSO batch jobs

IBM Enablers



- IBM was a partner.
- IBM Conversion Lab
- IBM Conversion Utility
- IBM Classroom and Online Training

Challenges



1. 2,400 time critical jobs that could take no more than 30 days to convert, test, and deploy back into production.
2. Conversion Lab could not commit to a fixed schedule.
3. In some cases converting to File Manager was not the answer.
 - a. Better replacements.
 - b. Missing functionality.
4. File Manager had different return codes for same error or warning than the product it was replacing.
5. About half the converted jobs needed some form of manual intervention.

Major Accomplishments



1. Significantly reduced the annual cost of this program set.
2. Reduced CPU consumption and improved run times.
3. 4,996 File-AID jobs converted, tested, and redeployed to production.
4. Installed IBM PDT products into 20 LParS, and 200 CICS regions and removed the old products.
5. Trained over 200 people to use the new IBM products.



Lessons Learned

1. Spend more time up front analyzing which jobs really need to be converted to avoid unnecessary conversions.
2. Utilizing local resources for conversions and testing was critical to project success.
3. Cooperation between TU and IBM Project Managers and Executives was a key ingredient in achieving a successful outcome.
4. Communicate, communicate, communicate!