

*"It took our Java developers two weeks to rewrite a sample .NET application in Java. At this rate, we'd need about 18 months to integrate the .NET applications."*

*Alex Libis  
Information and  
Data Security Manager,  
Opal Future Technologies*

### **Opal Future Technologies Inc. Consolidates Eight Pension Fund Management Systems into One, Delivering Unified System Services with IBM's WebSphere Portal 6 & Mainsoft's Portal Edition.**

#### **Mixed Portal Deployment, with 6 .NET applications and over 30 Java Portlets, In Production in 4 Months**

Founded in 2005, Opal Future Technologies Inc. provides IT infrastructure for eight pension funds that are currently regulated by the Israeli government. The funds have three million participants and over US \$20 billion in assets. To reduce operating costs and deliver consistent, quality service, the government tasked Opal with consolidating the eight fund's information management systems into a single, unified system.

#### **Business Opportunity**

The new system aggregates supporting services such as CRM, Data Mining, Investments Management, Help Desk, and Suppliers Management into a secure, roles-based environment with access to a centralized pension calculation engine and over 30 terabytes of data stored in an IBM DB2 CM storage system. The new system:

- ✓Increases the accuracy and reliability of the managed data and enforces a uniform pension calculation for all account holders.
- ✓Gives pension fund managers a single sign-on access to a uniform set of tools and applications to administer the fund.
- ✓Enables accountholders' employers to transfer pension fund contributions from employees' paychecks to their pension accounts and gives accountholders online access to their account information.

Alex Libis, Information and Data Security Manager of Opal, evaluated several commercially available portal servers to deliver the user interface. "We selected WebSphere Portal 6 because it offers roles-based access and a highly integrated, rich end-user experience," said Libis. "Portal 6 also offers easy integration with Opal's existing IBM DB2 CM storage system."

However, Opal faced a critical mismatch of skills and technologies, since several of its support applications are written in .NET. The company had only three in-house Java developers and just four months to bring the new system into production.

#### **Decision Process**

Libis considered rewriting the .NET applications in Java, however, the process proved too time consuming. "It took our Java developers two weeks to rewrite a sample .NET application in Java. At this rate, we'd need about 18 months to integrate the .NET applications. Plus, retraining my .NET developers in Java was impossible. I learned they would rather leave the company than learn Java. We couldn't spare the time or risk losing their extensive knowledge about the funds' business requirements."

Libis also considered using Web Services for Remote Portlets (WSRP) to surface the .NET applications on the Portal. However, according to Libis, "The end result would have been disappointing from the end user point of view, since WSRP does not yet support important features such as inter-portlet communications, single-sign-on, uniform look and feel and consistent navigation."

Libis, who heard about Mainsoft's cross-compilation technologies, decided to pilot Mainsoft's Portal Edition. The Portal Edition cross-compiles .NET code directly into JSR 168

compliant portlets that run natively on WebSphere Portal. For the proof of concept, Libis chose the largest and most logically complex .NET application. Within three days, Opal's .NET developers integrated the application into the Portal. "Our existing .NET team quickly achieved native integration with other J2EE portlets, without sacrificing performance," added Libis.

Satisfied with the results, Opal selected Mainsoft's Portal Edition to deploy the remaining .NET applications on the Portal.

*"Visual MainWin for J2EE, Portal Edition has given us the flexibility to make design and implementation choices without worrying about the language in which the components are written."*

Alex Libis  
Information and  
Data Security Manager,  
Opal Future Technologies

### Solution

Opal integrated 6 .NET applications and more than 30 Java services into the Portal and deployed the new system in four months. In the process, the team changed less than one-half of one percent of the .NET code base. The next phase, to be completed by June 2007, will incorporate an additional nine .NET applications and open the portal for external users.

"Today, I have Java developers and .NET developers working side by side in the Portal environment. Both groups can access the same Java classes/JSF objects to deliver Java deployments. Most importantly, Mainsoft's Portal Edition has given us the flexibility to rapidly design and implement the system without worrying about the language in which the components are written." Libis added.



ASP.NET applications that have been cross-compiled into portlets.

### Conclusion

Mainsoft's Portal Edition and IBM WebSphere Portal 6 enabled Opal to rapidly deploy the integrated pension fund system while fully preserving its existing code and skills. The company is achieving native integration of the .NET applications into the Portal at a fraction of the time it would have taken to rewrite them, while avoiding the inherent risk involved in a rewrite

### About Mainsoft Corporation

Founded in 1993, Mainsoft Corporation, the leading cross-platform company and an advanced IBM Business Partner, enables businesses to develop mission-critical applications with Visual Studio software and deploy them natively on multiple platforms, dramatically reducing development costs and time-to-market. The company is a first-mover in cross-platform development. Its world-class research and development team has created patented cross-platform products that solve critical problems facing IT organizations and software vendors. Many of the world's largest ISVs use Mainsoft's products to extend the productivity of the Visual Studio integrated development environment, deploying more than \$1 billion worth of software annually on multiple operating systems. For more information, visit [www.mainsoft.com](http://www.mainsoft.com).

### Mainsoft Corporation

226 Airport Parkway • Suite 250 • San Jose, CA 95110

800-MAINWIN • phone 408-200-4000 • fax 408-200-4044

[www.mainsoft.com](http://www.mainsoft.com)

©Copyright 2007 Mainsoft Corporation

All trademarks, trade names, service marks, and logos referenced herein belong to their respective companies.