

Large Telecommunications Company migrates to RACF

A large telecommunications company was finding it cost prohibitive to maintain and enhance their data centers due to the pricing practices and technical support of some of their software vendors. To assist in controlling these costs and provide them with IBM's exceptional product support, they decided to migrate their mainframe's security products to IBM's Security Server RACF. These migrations have realized them substantial software cost reductions and reduced resources spent on maintaining their mainframe's security software as well as the benefit of being positioned to leverage new e-business technologies.

The IBM Software Migration Project Office (SMPO) and IBM Global Services teamed with this company to migrate over 20 unique security environments protecting almost a hundred z/OS images located in various data centers throughout the United States. To minimize the risk of this complex project the migration methodologies designed and developed by the SMPO over the past ten years were utilized and include:

- Migration Assessment – A detailed study of all areas of the large telecommunications company's security environments was performed to bring forward any issues which would require special handling during the migrations. Questionnaires and interviews with the customer's technical staff enabled IBM to gain an understanding of the company's security environment and requirements. By comparing these to conditions found while performing other security migrations, IBM was able to make recommendations as to the best migration strategy for them.
- Planning Session – A detailed planning session was held to insure the appropriate staff knew the required changes and how to implement them. It also created a timeline and milestone chart for project tracking.
- Migration Tool – IBM's security database conversion tool, created and enhanced over the last 10 years, was used by the customer to automate the conversion of their security databases and to provide consistency across the systems during the migrations.
- Test Support – The test environments were comprehensive and well documented. Each system was tested for positive and negative security access by the appropriate personnel. Signoff for all applications and system integrity was instituted before moving the environment to production.

By utilizing these methodologies, the customer was able to ensure that each security environment was successfully migrated to RACF while having the confidence that each environment remained secure. As the series of migrations progressed, the skill of the team became greater and they were able to perform the migrations more efficiently and with greater assurance. The original timeframe to migrate all of these unique security environments was two years but due to the skill and dedications of all members of the team, the project was completed six months ahead of schedule and well within budget.

This large telecommunications company now benefits from the use of IBM's state of the art software which enables them to perform system maintenance in a timelier and reliable method with the certainty of having IBM's exceptional technical support available to them.

- The customer was 'very satisfied' with the migration services provided by IBM.