OpenLegacy
Digital to the Core

Case Study

Leading European bank uses our IMS DC Connector to deliver microservices into the cloud in days instead of months

Unparalleled speed enables open banking, multi-channel presence, and digital transformation

Amazon AWS | IMS | CICS | Microservices | Agile

This premier European bank is headquartered in the Netherlands, with presence in 15 countries and billions of euros in revenue. Their offerings range from asset management to commercial, investment, private, and retail banking. The bank prides itself on being “The bank of the future”—and OpenLegacy helped them get there.

The Challenge

An outsourced workforce and slow development times

To enable their innovative strategy and open banking partnerships, the bank undertook a digital transformation initiative, opening its core systems, which mainly resided on an IBM z/OS IMS DC mainframe environment, and unlocking critical functionality and data from these systems.

The bank’s new CEO wanted to accelerate digital transformation with agile development methods while also deploying all new tools and functionality to an Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud infrastructure. However, there were several technical and organizational challenges that slowed down implementation.

The bank outsourced almost all of its IT activities to three vendors—one for application development, another for application support and maintenance, and another for IT infrastructure. The outsourced workforce consisted of hundreds of external developers and IT people, across continents. This meant that introducing any change or new functionality was costly and time-consuming because it involved many people in different countries. The outsourced development team was also deploying new software and services on a slow 2-3 month release cycle, and was bogged down by multiple layers of middleware.

Ultimately, that meant that creating a new digital service—a microservice API on top of their legacy backend platform—took 3-4 months from start to finish. With hundreds of new services that needed to be exposed, tested and validated before being deployed into production, this was a complex, resource-heavy process shared between multiple vendors, which negatively impacted the quality and speed of the bank’s delivery organization.

The bank also embarked on a strategy to reduce dependency on various outsourced teams and associated proprietary processes, instead focusing on developing in-house knowledge based on open standard technologies and agile development methodologies.

The Solution

Directly exposing core mainframe APIs

The bank turned to OpenLegacy to directly expose APIs from the core z/OS Mainframe system. In the initial project, OpenLegacy created and deployed new microservice APIs encapsulating three core mainframe workflows within a day. The same process would have taken the outsourced team months. Creating the initial API would have taken a few weeks of manual work, and even then it would not have been a consumable API that can be deployed in production. It would have needed testing, deployment, and integration with all the bank's infrastructure and middleware to make it production-ready. Because of the middleware-laden setup and the bank's slow software deployment cycle, the process would have taken 3-4 months.

In contrast, the process of creating APIs with OpenLegacy is fully automated—from the back-end connectivity, which is done seamlessly through OpenLegacy's Mainframe Connectivity capabilities for the IMS DC without any middleware, to the unified development platform which allows design, deployment, and management of all APIs.

With its open standards architecture, OpenLegacy has proven on countless occasions to have the ability to quickly and seamlessly create standard integration connectors to various legacy backend platforms. The IMS DC connector, along with OpenLegacy's CICS COMMAREA and CTG connectors, enables direct and rapid microservice capabilities to virtually any mainframe environment.

The Result

Speed as a digital transformation enabler

OpenLegacy helped deploy microservice APIs in days versus months, facilitated agile development and enabled cultural change across the organization.

The bank's business leaders can have their "wish list" implemented quickly, paving the way to new partnerships and growth opportunities. They don't need to wait for months, instead they can keep enhancing the experience for their customers and partners.

Unlimited flexibility in API design and deployment enabled agile development and fast knowledge transfer. OpenLegacy's technology is built on open standards and technologies. There's no dependency on "black boxes" or middleware, and the required skill set for developers includes standard technologies like Java. When OpenLegacy started training in-house and outsourced bank developers on using its tools, it only took three days of training to get them up to speed and self-sufficient. OpenLegacy's cloud solution provides the bank secure, managed, scalable and robust cloud APIs and deployment to Amazon AWS within an extremely short timeframe.

OpenLegacy's innovative API technology and microservices allowed this company to modernize its portal and provide dynamic and efficient tools to aid vital HR activities, all without expensive middleware and lengthy employee training.

About OpenLegacy

OpenLegacy's Digital-Driven Integration enables organizations with legacy systems to release new digital services faster and easier than ever before. Connecting directly to even the most complex core systems, OpenLegacy automatically generates the digital-ready components needed to integrate legacy assets into exciting new innovations. With OpenLegacy, industry-leading companies release new apps, features, and updates while spending a fraction of the time and resources, so they quickly and easily become digital to the core.