Legacy Migration and the California Employment Development Department

Issue
With California reeling from the Great Recession, job losses spiked to record proportions, and EDD’s legacy database was very quickly on the verge collapsing under the pressure.

Solution
Utilizing their own Legacy Framework and a suite of Ateras DB-Shuttle tools, M Corp delivered and tested all upgrades to the EDD systems. When the system went live, transactions for a total of $135 million in payments were processed the first night alone and over 6 billion transactions the first week without incident.

Benefits
M Corp succeeded in making the ABP and IDMS conversion dates that resulted in nearly $1 billion in stimulus funds provided to California and mitigated the impact of the expected loss of experienced staff with IDMS expertise over the next 10 years.

For the last 22 years, EDD has run the mission-critical Unemployment and Disability Insurance (UI/DI) application to manage payment and claim information on an Integrated Database Management System (IDMS)-based system. These critical systems are large and extremely complicated; and the database became too inflexible to support the business needs of the customer. Business and legislative necessities grew, California’s economy sank, job losses spiked to record proportions, and EDD’s old IDMS database was very quickly on the verge collapsing under the pressure.

M Corp was called in by EDD to assist in the migration to the new modern DB2 database. With M Corp as their prime contractor, EDD was able to complete a major transformation of 30 years of data that included unemployment and disability insurance claims records for more than 18 million people – without any interruption of service to clients.

M Corp completed the massive venture on time and under budget, paving the way for other necessary upgrade projects at EDD.

Background
Since 1990, EDD’s Single Client Database (SCDB) has run the UI/DI application using an inflexible IDMS database.

As UI/DI requirements grew, the SCDB capacity also expanded in size, scope, and sophistication. The system was undeniably the largest IDMS database in the country, with over 18 million clients and 4 billion rows of data.

With California hit with the Great Recession and with unemployment claims on the rise, the SCDB began pushing the limitations of the IDMS platform. The
result was that the SCDB became progressively more difficult to modify and eventually reached the point where it was virtually impossible to add new data elements necessary to address UI/DI programs and expansion demands.

Execution

M Corp was the prime vendor responsible for the delivery and testing of the IDMS conversion to DB2 and for managing five federal extension modifications to the eligibility system. Utilizing all elements of their proven, tested Legacy Framework, M Corp delivered these upgrades to the EDD system and performed complete end-to-end system testing.

The SCDB project conversion process was largely automated, with M Corp utilizing a suite of Ateras DB-Shuttle tools configured according to EDD’s exact specifications.

M Corp was responsible for the implementation of the federal UI extensions and performed project management; scheduling; business modeling; system analysis; system design; system programming; unit testing; system test management; automated testing; test environment management; and performance, load, and stress testing.

Success

M Corp’s innovative approach enabled EDD to implement the SCDB modifications and other permanent solutions on a more reliable and sustainable platform and allowed EDD to take the first, strategic step in modernizing the SCDB.

10 databases were combined into one single database, with 4 billion rows of data converted in the process. When the system went live, transactions for a total of $135 million in payments were seamlessly processed the first night.

Even under intense pressure and a changing course, M Corp delivered to all expectations on time and under budget and leveraged improvements to the systems flexibility and maintainability that had immediate pay-off benefits.

It’s All About Results

• M Corp met all five federal extension dates since engaging on the project.
• Succeeded in making the ABP and IDMS conversion dates resulting in nearly $1 billion in stimulus funds being provided to California
• Allowed EDD to serve their claimants through improvement of the eligibility system, ensuring that benefit checks were issued on a timely basis and enabling families to pay their rent and buy groceries
• Enabled EDD development staff to work more efficiently. Changes from development team quickened from weeks to days.
• Conducted a full database switch-over test from IDMS to DB2 and then back, including putting the database back into production
• Fully testing the system through automated testing including automated test validation
• Established a fully repeatable quality management system with automated testing utilizing HP Quality Center and other HP tool sets
• allowed the UI and DI programs to further modernize their service delivery applications toward multi-channel e-Government systems
• Mitigated the impact of the expected loss of experienced staff with IDMS expertise over the next 10 years

“Our approach to this project resulted in complete success for EDD. From project management to implementation of federal UI extensions, I’m very proud of all that we accomplished on this project.”

— CHUCK CZAJKOWSKI
Partner, M Corp