



South American energy company uses MidVision Extensions to IBM Rational Automation Framework for WebLogic and JBoss and delivers on a DevOps ambition

“What began as a pressure from the development team to streamline our deployment activity rapidly escalated into a full-blown business transformation project as we realized our operations processes were a bottleneck not just for development, but for the whole business, putting in delays to getting innovation to market. We knew we had to collaborate better.”

IT Operations Manager



Customer: Energy Company

Industry: Energy

Deployment Country: Brazil

Solution: Application Release Automation, DevOps, MidVision Extensions to IBM Rational Automation Framework for WebLogic and JBoss

Overview

This customer is a publicly traded joint stock corporation who perform in several segments in the oil, gas and energy industry. They are present in 28 countries and perform in an integrated manner in exploration and production; downstream; trade; transportation and petrochemicals; derivative distribution; natural gas, bio-fuels, and electric energy.

Business need

This energy company was trying to respond to customer demands for more timely information available through new mobile and social channels and deliver innovation.

The developers were producing new capabilities at an unparalleled rate, but the operations team just couldn't keep up. They were performing their deployments manually across all production environments and using Hudson and Maven plugins to do build and deployment automation in some development environments.





They had identified a number of problems with this setup:

- Lack of predictability around the automation and integration processes between development and infrastructure teams
- Delays and bottlenecks in the applications deployment
- Communication and collaboration issues between the development and infrastructure areas

Solution

The customer had defined a project – the Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) initiative – which had a component to address application release automation. The project intended to transform the end to end process of delivering software capability through the development and operations teams. IBM's Rational Automation Framework was identified as the optimum solution to address the client's needs, partly because of its integration with IBM's Rational Team Concert underlying ALM solution, and also because with the MidVision extensions it could provide support to the middleware infrastructure platforms – WebLogic and JBoss.

Benefits

Implementing this deployment automation and release management solution meant that the customer was able to eliminate the bottlenecks in the deployment process and allow the innovations the development team were creating in response to business demand to reach the market and their customers at a greatly accelerated speed.

Additionally, as part of the overall Application Lifecycle Management initiative, they were able to transform the way in which the development and operations teams were able to communicate and collaborate, taking a step towards creating a DevOps style culture.





There were three key aspects to this work:

1. Self Service

Before implementing the solution, the development team was entirely reliant on a handful of IT operations staff performing their deployments in a manual manner. The process was time-consuming and as the business put increasing pressure on development to deliver innovation, the levels of frustration with the delays and bottlenecks between the two teams rose accordingly. Once the application release automation solution was deployed, the development team were given secured access to their projects and environments and were able to perform templated deployments at a click of a button, vastly improving the time to market of the solutions they wanted to make available to their customers.

2. Collaboration

The combination of the move to an automated process, and the associated elimination of scripts, the ability to provide self-service and share the workload logically resulted in the removal of the bottlenecks and a subsequent huge performance improvement.

This meant that the operations team had more time to spend on high-value tasks and also created part of the platform that enabled the team to work much closer together on projects and eased the frustration that the development team were feeling. The implementation of this tool delivered a fundamental cultural change.



3. DevOps

As with most companies today, the development and operations teams at this customer operated in silos, with the development team's primary concern being change and the operation team's priority on stability.

These opposing ambitions were creating the conflict that was causing the frustration as development felt operations were an obstacle to their delivering on their commitments to the business, and ultimately to their customers.

Removing the bottlenecks in the operation team's process and sharing the application release tasks between the team drove the transformation of how the teams were able to collaborate - helping them to start creating a DevOps culture.





Products and services used

MidVision products and services that were used in this case study:

Software: MidVision Extensions to IBM Rational Automation Framework

Target Environments: Oracle WebLogic and Red Hat JBoss

Services: Configuration and implementation consulting IBM Software Licensing Support

Take the next step:

Download the MidVision Extensions to IBM Rational Automation Framework datasheet

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