z13 – A Compelling Target for Natural/Adabas Application Migration

Key Takeaways

Migrating Natural/Adabas applications to Java/DB2 on a cloud based z13 provides an outstanding Return on Investment (ROI). Here are some of the key benefits:

- Eliminates significant third party software costs
- Leverages the z13 Java performance, high performance analytics, real-time encryption, mobile transaction procession power, low cost speciality processors and cloud based economics
- Enables simple Java/JSP web-based application enhancements at minimal cost
- Provides access to more readily available skilled human resource pools for Java and DB2 technologies

Competitive Environment

Competitors are targeting IBM's System z customers for migration to distributed platforms – either to Java or .NET with an RDBMS such as Oracle or MS SQLServer. The sales "mythology" often deployed to z/OS customers is the supposed high cost of the "z/OS platform".

In many cases however these "high costs" are dominated by third party software costs – particularly for Natural/Adabas and other legacy database systems.

Moreover it is also often true that customer frustrations with limited human resource availability and legacy (non-RDBMS) data access challenges are blamed on the "mainframe" technology when the z13, DB2 and Java by themselves are very modern, secure, reliable, flexible, competitive and enduring platform technologies.

From another perspective these legacy database systems are often a blocker to z13 hardware and software upgrades. Often the "mainframe" bears the brunt of this criticism regardless that the true cost culprit is the third party software. This simply adds to customer discontent in many cases and often leads to migrations off z/OS without a true TCO based analysis supporting such a strategy.

Alternative Strategy

This note outlines a counter strategy for deflecting this competitive threat via a low cost migration of Natural/Adabas applications to a functionally equivalent Java/DB2 implementation hosted on a z13 technology stack.

The result – substantial financial and flexibility ROI as customer *third party costs can be substantially reduced*, technology resource constraints mitigated, and data access flexibility significantly improved.

z13 Solution

IBM has partnered with FBD Associates Inc. ("FBDA") to deliver these low cost migrations using a combination of FBDA's JavNat (Natural-to-Java) tools and the IBM z13, Java-on-z/OS and JZOS technologies as follows:

- FBDA's tools provide a high quality automated transformation (>99% coverage) of the Natural source code to Java; fully automated DB2 DDL generation; and fully automated Adabas to DB2 data migration;
- IBM's z13 and Java-on-z/OS technologies provide a high performance environment for Java workloads and also support lower cost execution via the cloud and the ZAAP or ZAAP-on-ZIIP speciality processors;
- IBM's JZOS technology supports simple direct migration of the customer JCL for Natural batch applications thereby significantly lowering migration costs and risk while improving customer ROI.
- IBM may provide discounts for these migrations via its System z New Application License Charges (zNALC) and Value Unit Edition (VUE) pricing policies which, if applicable, can substantially improve customer migration project ROI.
- DB2 and Java human resource pools are substantially larger than equivalent pools for Natural/Adabas
- The JavNat JSP based "3270 in a browser" user interface preserves the skills and training of existing users
- The JavNat one-to-one transformation strategy preserves the architecture, look-and-feel, business logic and maintainability of the original Natural/Adabas application
- The JavNat Java/JSP technologies enable low cost improvements in the user interface over time and can significantly improve the original application functionality

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