CUSTOMER

Physicians Mutual®
Insurance for all of us.™

INDUSTRY
Insurance

CHALLENGE
At Physicians Mutual, the lack of documentation and tools needed to manage millions of lines of complex mainframe code led to long development cycles, preventing the insurance company from capitalizing on critical business opportunities.

SOLUTION

Compuware
Topaz™

RESULTS

- Faster code analysis for determining code changes, impacts and requirements for resolving production events, speeding up maintenance and development cycles

- Cross-platform IDE increases productivity of experienced developers and minimizes learning curve of less experienced developers

- Identify problems earlier in the development lifecycle and before compiling to ease understanding and management of complex applications

- Visualize relationships of application code, interdependencies and impact analysis before coding so developers spend more time coding and less time testing

- Unified editor simplifies working with data on mainframe and distributed systems for developers of all skill levels

Topaz is Key for Insurance Company to Manage Complex Mainframe Code

Business Challenge

Physicians Mutual Insurance Company and Physicians Life Insurance Company are members of the Physicians Mutual family. Physicians Mutual Insurance Company offers reliable Medicare Supplement, dental and supplemental health insurance. Physicians Life Insurance Company provides important life insurance coverage and annuities.

Physicians Mutual has a significant investment in mainframe systems that support the business. The application code comprises millions of lines of code that must be maintained, modified and flexible enough to support the changing needs of the business.

The complexity of Physicians Mutual's mainframe code and the lack of documentation and tools to help manage that code base had led to long development cycles and frequently missing opportunities to capitalize on immediate business interests.

Solution

Topaz gives Physicians Mutual developers immediate program knowledge to quickly understand complex logic and data relationships through a modern code editing IDE that provides feedback and guidance to shorten cycles. In addition, as the company continues to plan for the future, creating a modern mainframe development environment will enhance their capability of attracting and retaining top developer talent.

Topaz Workbench with Program Analysis and Enterprise Data was deployed to provide a GUI integrated development environment with program structure charts. Topaz Runtime Visualizer was deployed to provide understanding and documentation of program execution, identification of dead code, and cross-platform data visualization and data management capability.

Topaz Workbench provides a host-to-host data movement capability that empowers the Physicians Mutual developers to quickly handle data management tasks that used to take much longer.

Results

Topaz enables application teams to more quickly analyze code to determine what changes need to be made, the impact of the changes and what is required to resolve a production event. Being able to understand the problem leads to much faster maintenance and development cycles. Cross-platform IDE Topaz Workbench increases the productivity of the most senior developers, while at the same time minimizing the learning curve of new, less experienced mainframe developers.

Compuware

"Insurance is complex. IT systems are complex. Insurance IT systems are incredibly complex. Topaz will help us manage this complexity in a way that we can make better decisions and move faster," said Nathan Coberly, Assistant Vice President of Enterprise Architecture and Development.

Topaz for Program Analysis provides the ability to quickly understand potential program problems before compiling, enabling programmers to manage vast, complex applications and to identify problems earlier in the development lifecycle.

Runtime Visualizer provides understanding of the relationships of application code, interdependencies and impact analysis before coding begins. This enables developers to spend more time writing code and less time testing.

Topaz for Enterprise Data allows developers and other IT personnel to work with data on both mainframe and distributed systems in a unified editor, which both simplifies the learning curve and empowers the team to tackle bigger issues.

What Physicians Mutual's App Dev Teams Have to Say About Topaz

"A significant portion of our premium is processed on the mainframe. This will help us better manage our insurance products to maximize our revenue and serve our business and clients better."

"Making changes to large, complex applications too often feels like whack-a-mole when you don't have visibility into how things are connected. Topaz Runtime Visualizer shows us immediately how our application works and what it touches, so we can make changes knowing we have the right scope of work covered."

"Topaz is helping bridge the gap between our long-term mainframe talent and our bright new stars."

"We have to manage a wide variety of mainframe tasks—from writing new code to maintaining legacy code bases to addressing fixes—and Topaz will help us do that more safely and quickly."

"A picture is worth a 1,000 words and Topaz is the camera."

"As Physicians continues to plan for the future, we need to create a modern development environment that will enhance our ability to attract and retain top developer talent."

The Mainframe Software Partner For The Next 50 Years

Compuware empowers the world's largest companies to excel in the digital economy by fully leveraging their high-value mainframe investments. We do this by delivering highly innovative solutions that uniquely enable IT professionals with mainstream skills to manage mainframe applications, data and platform operations.

Learn more at Compuware.com.