Indian conglomerate ignites digital transformation

OpenLegacy exposes SAP backend applications for use in new digital channels

MANUFACTURING, PHARMA | SAP | DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

> "'With OpenLegacy, we accomplished projects and goals that previously a team of 100 couldn't complete. For us, OpenLegacy not only helps us leverage our existing technology investments, but also our valuable staff."
>
> IT Executive, Indian Manufacturing Company

With its roots in India's steel industry, today the company is a multibillion dollar global federation of companies operating in 22 industries, including pharma, financial services, IT, real estate, agriculture, and hospitality. Famous for its rugged and reliable cars, the company is also known for innovative IT solutions. It has offices in over 30 countries and a global brand presence in more than 100 markets.

The Challenge

Digital Transformation through modernization of SAP backend

The company prides itself on "innovating ahead of the curve," and employees are encouraged and rewarded to challenge conventional thinking and innovate.

Recently, the company set its sights on digital transformation: Engaging clients and capabilities, and exposing legacy backend user interfaces in newer environments such as web, mobile, and cloud.

SAP manages the company's core business functions such as supply chain, finance, and HR. SAP has numerous touch points to other applications within the enterprise: CRM, accounting, and third party applications are just a few examples.

Integrating SAP to other applications within their organization is a challenge. The company will fail to optimize and modernize their business processes without an integration between SAP and the other systems. The company uses an on-prem version of SAP but most of the other enterprise applications are cloud-based, which compounds the integration problem. Moreover, the user interface is a SAP client, which does not support newer environments such as internet, mobile, or cloud.

The company knew that opening up its SAP backend would be key to its digital transformation efforts. One of the first areas selected for transformation was the employee portal, based on the SAP Human Capital module with functionality like hiring, compensation benefits, and expense reimbursement. The company wanted to build new digital, web, and mobile applications on top of the SAP system powering the portal.

One hundred employees are dedicated to the integration project, comprised of SAP ABAP developers, and SAP BASIS developers (Business Application Software Integrated solution), back-end developers, mobile developers, designers, and so on. Every week the team worked on dozens of business processes in parallel. Exposing one SAP business process as a fully deployed API took them weeks, which was far too slow to meet the business demands.

The Solution

The company partnered with OpenLegacy for a pilot project of opening up the SAP Human Capital Management module.

In the pilot, OpenLegacy generated Java APIs from SAP BAPIs and exposed them as microservices. Then, OpenLegacy's platform which includes support for generating HTML5. The platform created a fully functional, responsive web and mobile application within minutes. OpenLegacy transformed the Sales Order creation and PO workflow into a single process with different approval levels. The OpenLegacy platform automatically generates code that exposes the underlying API it's connected to standard HTML5. The code can act as a standalone web page, a mobile application, or integrated in other applications. Instead of coding from scratch, all that is left to do is apply a design template and look & feel attributes.

The code is standard and open, and can be easily modified and extended within any web development environment. All the backend connectivity is done through the microservice generated by OpenLegacy.

About OpenLegacy

OpenLegacy accelerates delivery of innovative digital services from legacy systems in days or weeks versus months. Our microservices-based API integration and management software reduces manual effort by automating API creation, simplifies the process by avoiding layers of complexity, and improves staff efficiency and API performance. Our software directly accesses and extends business logic to web, mobile or cloud innovations in the form of Java objects, REST APIs or SOAP. Most importantly, this process is not only fast, easy and secure, but also does not require special staff skills or changes to existing systems or architecture. Together, business and IT teams can quickly, easily and securely meet consumer, partner or employee demands for digital services without altering or replacing core systems. Learn why leading companies choose OpenLegacy at www.openlegacy.com.

The Results

Overall, OpenLegacy's breadth of expertise enabled the team to move swiftly, leverage best practices, and custom-build the company's fully integrated AS/400 digital solution. Initial results are promising, with notable achievements including:

Minutes instead of weeks, a month instead of a year
With OpenLegacy, SAP processes are exposed as an API and available as a web or mobile application within minutes, instead of weeks. The company estimates that one of the projects—implementing a new Purchase Order Approval workflow—will take a month in total with OpenLegacy, instead of a year with the existing solution.

Unlimited flexibility in API design and deployment enabled agile development and fast knowledge transfer
OpenOpenLegacy's platform is built on open standards and technologies. The required skill set for developers includes standard technologies like Java and HTML5. OpenLegacy trained the in-house developers on using its tools in a few days.

Speed as a digital transformation enabler
Microservices were deployed within days instead of months, which facilitated agile development and initiated a cultural change across the organization. The company's business leaders realize they can have their "wish list" implemented quickly, paving the way to new partnerships and growth opportunities. They don't need to wait for months to enhance the experience for their customers and employees.

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