

## Other Application Challenges with IB-ARM



Although maintaining, sustaining and supporting an Application systems portfolio represents the major portion of an organization's information technology budget, there are often unique business and technology drivers that require unique solutions. Business or ownership changes, cost reduction programs and hardware and software architecture changes often require unique migrations and conversions to application systems.

### Unique Application Challenges

#### Re-Platforming

Often one or more applications within a portfolio reside on hardware or software platforms that no longer fit the corporate architectural strategy. As time goes on, these applications are treated more and more as 'black boxes' and many are targeted for re-platforming. Once the decision is made to go ahead with re-platforming the application, the most critical step is to create a further, detailed understanding of the components of the current application and its functionality.

IB-ARM assists re-platforming efforts by:

- Providing a complete inventory of the current application and its components
- Provide details of interfaces to other applications that may / may not be involved in the re-platforming
- Provide analysis capabilities for understanding the impact of re-platforming changes.

#### Re-Patriation

Project development is often outsourced to a consulting or development organization due to their expertise in developing software for particular business function and / or technology platform. After development is completed, the software is often brought in-house or re-patriated for the purpose of providing ongoing maintenance and support using in-house resources. The key to effective application re-patriation is the organization's ability to reduce the time for new resources to become productive on the re-patriated application (i.e. a quick learning curve).

IB-ARM assists re-patriation efforts by:

- Providing a complete inventory of the current application and its components
- Providing a powerful search facility quickly search on application details all source code types and all system and business documents.
- Providing understanding of the application structure. IB-ARM contains several graphical, tabular and source code views that provide insight into the structure of applications to assist in the design of software changes.

#### Sun-setting / De-commissioning

Sometimes it is more economically viable to sun-set or replace an application than to upgrade or modernize it. When an application is being sun-setted, this may be done as a gradual replacement / rewrite or as a big-bang

replacement. In either case, the key to successfully sun-setting an application is to ensure that all application functions and all interfaces to internal and external systems have been effectively replaced.

IB-ARM assists sun-setting efforts by:

- Providing a complete inventory of the current application and its components
- Providing details of interfaces to other applications
- Providing detailed data definitions to allow data to be migrated to the new application.

### **Outsourcing**

Outsourcing is the opposite of re-patriation: application maintenance is outsourced to an outside organization to reduce costs and allow the company to concentrate on its core business. The key to effective outsourcing is the ability to reduce the time for new (outside) resources to become productive on the outsourced application.

IB-ARM assists outsourcing efforts by:

- Providing a complete inventory of the current application and its components
- Providing automated system documentation that can be continually refreshed as the application is modified.
- Providing tools and views that provide understanding of the application structure. IB-ARM contains several graphical, tabular and source code views that provide insight into the structure of applications to assist in the design of software changes.

### **Mergers and Acquisitions**

Mergers and acquisitions are integral to modern day business dynamics. Every time that a company acquires another, and is looking for synergies and operational efficiencies, the merging of existing applications that address similar or the same business functionality is inevitably considered. The fundamental question of “What do I have?” and “What have I added?” becomes front and centre.

IB-ARM assists merger and acquisitions efforts by:

- By capturing candidate applications, along with their supporting documentation, in the IB-ARM repository, assessments can be made about applications to be retained / removed.
- Providing metrics about size, complexity, functions points and quality can utilized in application assessments.
- Provide details of interfaces to other applications that need to be refactored when systems are replaced.

## **About Information Balance, Inc.**

**Information Balance**  **Information Balance, Inc.** develops software solutions to support large scale application development and maintenance practices across mainstream technology platforms. Its flagship product **Application Road Map (ARM)** is a unique Application Portfolio Management (APM) solution. The company's clients include leading financial services, insurance, telecommunications and retail organizations across North America.

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