CASE STUDY

LA VAUDOISE REDUCES VERSION PREPARATION TIME BY 2/3 AND APPLICATION DOWNTIME BY 95% THANKS TO ARCAD FOR DEVOPS ON IBM I

The customer

La Vaudoise Assurances is the only independent private insurance company with a decision-making centre in French-speaking Switzerland. It is one of the ten largest private insurers in the Swiss market. Founded in 1895, it provides individuals and SMEs with high-level advice and solutions in all areas of insurance and pension provision. Located all over Switzerland through its network of around 100 branches, La Vaudoise offers its clientele a local service both in terms of advice and claims settlement. The Group employs about 1,550 people, including around 100 apprentices.

Context and issues

Since 2006, the IBM i platform has been La Vaudoise's **main central system**.

It is used by more than 1,000 users daily and notably manages the issue of premiums, representing more than one billion Swiss francs per year.

In 2017, La Vaudoise decided to change this environment in order to address the following challenges:

- **Industrialization of production releases on IBM i with proven traceability of deployments** (particularly important in the insurance industry)

- **Simplification of the repository into a single cross-platform solution**

- **Adoption of a DevOps strategy on IBM i,** already in place on all other platforms at La Vaudoise.

The solution

In order to manage this transition, La Vaudoise needed to implement a **DevOps** solution offering **advanced functionality on IBM i:**

Source code management in a single repository

Build automation: recompilation of the impacted sources only

Automated code quality checks: identification of weaknesses to improve maintainability and reduce the risk of error

Automated regression testing, test coverage report: Detection of differences in interface, database and spools.

Continuous delivery and deployment: automation of provisioning and deployment of customized applications

Rollback in case of error: return to a previous version of software and databases in case of error

Automatic integrity checks: integrity checking during deployments

« The IBM i team used the Scrum method to organize agile sprints. This made the weekly objectives very clear and gave Management continuous and precise visibility throughout the project »

Assia GARBINATO
Vice-Director, Head of Data & Management Information

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Benefits

Database reorganization/optimization
Before ARCAD for DevOps, the preparation work for referencing sources took about 30 man-days. Since the ARCAD implementation, the duration is now 3 times shorter, allowing for more frequent deployments

Downtime reduction : during production launch: downtime has been reduced from 20 minutes to less than one minute

Simplified integration : ARCAD's modularity has enabled easy integration of the 4GL language. Procedures and macros are perfectly adapted to the in-house developed specific code.
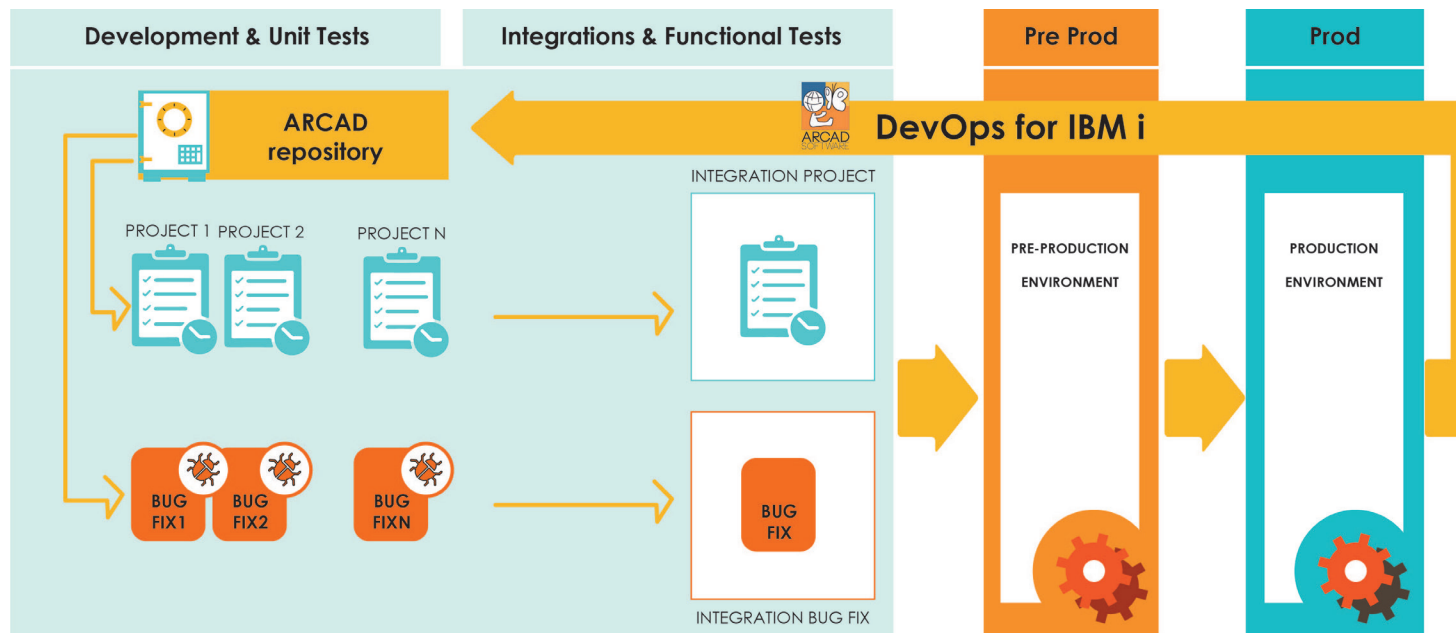
Next steps

The IBM i team now has complete mastery of DevOps best practices.

In order to harmonize solutions across all platforms, the team will soon integrate Git for version control and Jira for project management.

Finally, the team are considering the implementation of the DROPS solution for the orchestration of all application deployments.

"The success of this project marks a significant optimization in our IT processes. Thanks to the savings in time, quality and reliability, we now have the ideal conditions to concentrate our efforts and resources on our digital transformation program."

Olivier WALLET,
Vice-Director, Head of the Insurance Solutions Division

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