

Complex System Migrations and Deployments

Although Information Technology (IT) has made a lot of progress in making software applications easier to use and handle, the complexity behind the simplified user interface has increased. At the same time the demands and expectations of the business and end-users have also become more stringent. Large-scale migrations, e.g. the replacement of a large and critical business application, the migration from one operating system to another (e.g. from Windows NT to Windows XP), or the complete replacement of client hardware globally, require due preparation, planning, and coordination. If not done properly, the costs of the implementation and the risk of delays increase significantly.

Business Case and Issues

Large and complex system migration projects are usually cross-departmental, and involve many sites, locations and functions. These projects normally cost several million Swiss Francs and have high visibility to the business management as they have significant impact on the business. Due to the size, scale and complexity, such projects easily exceed their allocated budgets and encounter delays due to the multiple internal and external dependencies. These delays have adverse knock-on effects on other activities within the project or even on other external projects. As these projects are highly visible, success or failure have a direct impact on the reputation of the Information Technology department to the internal business community, and may affect the reputation of the company to its external business customers.

Capabilities and Experiences of IBR AG

IBR AG is a project management and business process consulting company based in Arlesheim, specializing in projects at the interface between business and information technology (IT).

Project managers and consultants from IBR AG have extended business knowledge gained over many years working on such projects for international companies with high dependency on Information Technology. Projects carried out include:

- Migration of 34'000 workstations worldwide from various operating systems to one global standard client core configuration in the company. The application portfolio was also reduced from over 10'000 to fewer than 2'000 applications, realizing significant operational cost reductions.
- Migration of over 60'000 workstations of various hardware client platforms to a common global hardware standard for desktops, notebooks, and monitors. This also required the integration of systems and processes from forecasting, ordering, delivery, deployment and the disposal of legacy hardware.



- Implementation of large scale international business applications across multinational locations. This required significant interactions between the business representatives, the internal IT Staff, various vendors, and with key customer representatives.

Services and Methodology

The following services are provided by IBR AG:

- Planning and management of your project
- Project office support
- Architectural audit with focus on validation, reliability, security, integrity and service orientation.
- Evaluation of technology and vendor appropriate for your special needs
- Request for proposal (RFPs) and negotiations, vendor assessments, and budget management
- Progress or post implementation project audits
- Transitional services supporting project hand-over to operations

Benefits of partnering with IBR AG

IBR AG has extensive project management and IT experience in highly controlled industries such as pharmaceuticals, airline and financial services. We are able to bridge business and IT and to realize business goals and benefits. Effective project management requires honed people and communication skills in being able to drive the project team, as well as managing the expectation upwards to the Steering Committee. IBR AG project managers and consultants have successfully implemented many large scale system migration and deployment projects across various industries and organizations.