



**GARRY ALLEN, DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
FOR HERNANDO COUNTY**

HERNANDO TRANSITIONS TO WINDOWS WITH EASE

Hernando County is located on the central-west coast of Florida, north of Tampa Bay. It borders the Gulf of Mexico on the west, and has a population of 140,000 which places it well within the “typical county” size range. Hernando County government has been using Unisys Mainframes as their main computing engine for over 30 years. Officials have been very satisfied Unisys users and have created a huge wealth of knowledge and expertise in MCP, DMSII, LINC and EAD. Their EAD systems acted as servers to their website to provide property information. The 5 LINC systems are at the heart of the County’s IS systems and include Property Appraisals, Tax Collection, Work Management, and Building Permitting and Inspections, which included a Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System.

HERNANDO’S SITUATION AND NEED

Hernando searched for methods of converting to SQL based systems for well over a year. Their research had confirmed the possibility of huge increases in database performance plus they wanted to become less dependent on the proprietary MCP/DMSII knowledge located in the minds of a few key staff members. It was clear to Hernando officials that there were also major savings to be made by moving to Windows/Intel architectures. However, Hernando officials had big concerns about how to accomplish transition to Windows without giving up

the levels of reliability, resilience and dependability they had become accustomed to as Unisys mainframe users. Hernando County was hooked on reliability. Hernando, like many other counties, had limited resources and wanted to avoid heavy overheads associated with a rewrite or the implementation of new packages. They had been very careful in the construction of their systems and wanted to retain their legacy. Hernando’s software worked well and had been nationally acclaimed.

THE SOLUTION FOR HERNANDO

In October 2003, Hernando County accepted the offer of a free demonstration of their systems running under Windows and implemented on a standard a SQL database. “We were amazed and didn’t really believe it somehow,” said Garry Allen Director of Technology Services for Hernando County. “Asysco took one of our systems and all its data and within a few hours it was running just as it was on our mainframe, reverse reads and everything. We changed nothing”. The networked server architecture provided Hernando County with the resilience they were seeking. Hernando County was so impressed that in November they took a 2 day training class and shortly afterward started testing Asysco’s Migration Technology (AMT) LION on their other systems. By mid January 2004 the AMT-LION project had won approval.

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THE FINAL RESULT

By February 1st, ALL of Hernando County's systems went live with AMT-LION. "Our reports run so much faster (10x-15x) and they don't have any affect on our On-Line systems. Our users love the Report Manager." This Report Management System provides on-line report viewing, printing, reprinting, searching and data extraction to local disc from current and historical reports. "Some of our users were apprehensive and some thought they'd need training," commented Garry Allen, "but there was very little change for our users. We had no software to install on their desktops except for creating a short cut on their desktops. This is probably the easiest system transition that I've ever experienced in the 25 years of working in the computer industry. We knew the plan was intensely aggressive but everything went well, the performance is stunning. After the transition we reviewed everything and came to the

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conclusion that if we had it to do over again, we would change very little. We're extremely pleased, our users are happy, and are proud to say we will realize nearly \$1 million in cost savings for our taxpayers over the next 5 years."

CUSTOMER

Hernando County Government. Hernando County is located on the central-west coast of Florida, north of Tampa Bay. It borders the Gulf of Mexico on the west, and has a population of 140,000.

SECTOR

Government

PROBLEM

Hernando County needed huge increases in data-base performance, and wanted to become less dependent on the proprietary MCP/DMSII knowledge located in the minds of a few key staff members. They were looking for a transition to Windows without giving up the levels of reliability, resilience and dependability they had become accustomed to as Unisys mainframe users.

SOLUTION

Asysco's Migration Technology (AMT) LION helped Hernando County to make a smooth transition from their mainframe environment to the Microsoft Windows platform. The solution helped Hernando County to run reports much faster and increase their performance. They realized nearly \$1 million in cost savings for their taxpayers over 5 years

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