

Northumbrian Water

Migration Case Study



The Background

Northumbrian Water Limited (NWL) supplies 2.6 million customers in North East England with water and waste water services, operating as Northumbrian Water, and 1.8 million customers in South East England with water services, operating as Essex & Suffolk Water. It is an independent company quoted on the FTSE 250 Index of the London Stock Exchange.

NWL's EnGarde system is used to manage a range of activities including asset management, job management, labour resourcing and cost management. This system originally consisted of about 450 forms, across two sites, which were in Oracle Forms 4.5.

The Challenge

The requirement was to upgrade these legacy forms to a newer web-browser based version of Oracle Forms, in this case version 10g. The character mode forms a new look-and-feel to appear like a standard Windows/Web based modern data entry environment. This application was particularly challenging with legacy old-style trigger steps in the code.

The Solution

Methodsoft's Forms*Facelift service provided an automated migration for 98% of the application, modernising the code and automatically applying a new look-and-feel without effecting the business logic.

"Methodsoft's approach of performing a small trial conversion to allow us to examine the result of their tools, and to check and ensure functionality and business logic were retained, greatly reduced the risk of the project" said Alistair Purvis, Project Manager for NWL.

Northumbrian Water Limited needed to move its EnGarde Oracle Forms system to a newer, supported version of Oracle Forms.

The company turned to Methodsoft to migrate EnGarde to Forms 10g and to help them further enhance and rationalise the system.

The new EnGarde system leverages NWL's existing investment in Oracle Forms technology, provides a supported platform and improves end-user satisfaction through a web-based system.

"Methodsoft had the right combination of technical skills and expertise as well as a thorough understanding of what we hoped to achieve," said Alistair Purvis, Project Manager for NWL.

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