

Global airline implements agile development with Adaptive Integration Fabric & lowers project costs by 20%

One of the largest airlines in the world flies to more than 300 destinations in 50 countries. The organization manages a fleet of nearly 1,000 aircrafts that handle over 200 million passengers each year.

Following a merger with another major carrier, the airline decided to overhaul manual green screen aircraft maintenance processes, and needed to expose its mainframe and modernize its technology infrastructure and development processes to do so.

Challenge

Agile is widely considered the gold standard of modern software development methodology and known to significantly reduce development hours. Since it can help teams deliver products and value more quickly and with higher quality, it is no surprise that nearly all modern development incorporates at least some Agile principles.

Client

US-based Global Airline

Industry

Travel & Transportation

Challenge

Needed to modernize the product and development processes of its core systems

Solution

Adaptigent's Adaptive Integration Fabric



But Agile's iterative approach can be extremely challenging if the technology environment includes core systems that don't facilitate real-time access to data and applications.

An all-too common example is the mainframe computer. Mainframes were not designed to interact with external systems, and organizations that use them as their system of record are often faced with extremely long, waterfall-based development cycles. These long timelines add complexity and cost to projects and can stifle innovation.

Following a merger that required massive systems integrations, one large US airline decided to move aircraft maintenance from a manual paper and green screen-based process to one that allows for real-time interaction with their legacy mainframe computers. The new system would not only equip technicians with fully connected tablets, but would provide better visibility into team productivity and facilitate faster gate turnaround to improve on-time performance.

Solution

They realized, however, that enabling their mainframe for mobile real-time access was an extremely complicated task. After evaluating their options, they discovered the Adaptive Integration Fabric from Adaptigent™ would not only enable the real-time mainframe integration their teams needed, but would do so through a no code, drag-and-drop interface that greatly improves the productivity of their development resources.

In addition, the Fabric would allow them to fully implement an Agile development approach across their architecture, including the mainframe. Without this updated development methodology, the airline would have been stuck with prohibitively long waterfall enhancement cycles and unsupported business processes on the mainframe that would not have aligned with mobile application development.

Results

The airline decided that one of the keys to modernizing their development practices was to expose the mainframe to development and QA teams. With the help of the Fabric, the airline was able to transform their product development structure and processes into a typical agile construct. Their infrastructure groups now create user stories that illustrate the business value and define requirements, and the UI, System Design, and Dev teams can execute them under budget and in a constantly iterative way.

“All our teams now have access to the same datasets, giving us the ability to make quick decisions on the spot to drive operational improvements.”

- Operations Director



In effect, the modernization brought into the environment with the Adaptive Integration Fabric not only improved the technical performance of the systems being developed, but also the functional performance of the development teams all while reducing project costs by 20%. With the Fabric, teams get feedback on the end-to-end performance of the application more quickly and thus can apply Agile principles and the decision-making processes to act on that feedback.

Previously, this was not possible because of the technical silos that existed between mobile development teams and the owners of the mainframe environment. These silos limited the team's ability to gauge the quality and performance of the features being developed, especially in the early phases of the development process.

As requirements constantly evolve through sprint schedules and daily standups, teams are able to manage backlog through automated test authentication and distribution. This accelerated testing and QA is possible due to the Fabric's service process and speed.

This agile methodology has not only created a user-centric process for maintenance and repair modernization, but allowed teams to integrate maintenance systems and functions with other airline operations, including finance and flight forecasting. The result is a widespread, coordinated approach that is nimble and user-driven - exactly what agile development should be.

Your development methodology no longer needs to be constrained due to legacy infrastructure and limited access to applications and data. The Fabric's speed and flexibility can help modernize your approach.

Visit Adaptigent.com to learn more.

“The architecture has such a strong foundation, but it also tightly couples the data so you have the same data being reused across the organization.”

- Dir, Systems Integration



Adaptigent empowers organizations to unlock the potential of their core systems to enable enterprise-level innovation. The company's products, led by Adaptive Integration Fabric, help IT organizations provide real-time, business-ready results by creating a dynamic, no-code layer that allows modern applications to access the full treasure trove of data trapped on legacy systems. Built on a 35+ year history of digital transformation expertise, it is trusted by many of the world's largest companies — Credit Suisse, AXA, Lockheed Martin, and Caterpillar — to accelerate their IT modernization efforts.