

Customer Case Study

US Foods: Data Migration from Mainframe Datacom to a MySQL Database



With a promise to help its customers Make It, US Foods is one of America's great food companies and a leading foodservice distributor, partnering with approximately 250,000 restaurants and foodservice operators to help their businesses succeed. With 70 broadline locations and more than 80 cash and carry stores, US Foods and its 28,000 associates provides its customers with a broad and innovative food offering and a comprehensive suite of e-commerce, technology and business solutions. US Foods is headquartered in Rosemont, Ill.

ABOUT TREEHOUSE SOFTWARE

Since 1982, Treehouse Software has offered the most comprehensive and flexible portfolio of solutions available anywhere for modernization, replication, and migration of data between a variety of mainframe and non-mainframe sources and targets.

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BUSINESS ISSUE

Much of US Food's high volume critical application data is stored on an IBM mainframe Datacom database, in which it is handling high-volume enterprise workloads. The cost to maintain the legacy database is high and they lack the features required for modernizing the data architecture. The data is utilized by an extensive number of interlinked programs dependent on this legacy data. US Foods wanted a solution that would allow the legacy environment to continue while having real time data replication on a modern database. In their case, the decision was made to move the Datacom data to a MySQL target database. This enables them to utilize modern programming and data tools to help be competitive in their market.

TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION

Treehouse Software is the worldwide distributor of Rocket Data Rreplicate and Sync (formerly called tcVISION), the leading tool for using change data capture (CDC) for synchronizing mainframe data with real-time data replication. tcVISION's intuitive data modeling and mapping, and ease of migrating data, made it the ideal choice for helping to modernize the large mainframe environment at US Foods.

The Treehouse Software and US Foods teams developed a phased plan to install, implement, and prove out tcVISION. This started with a proof-of-concept (POC) to test the technology's effectiveness and technical suitability. The POC was preceded by an architectural phase to define the technical resource requirements, configuration management, connectivity, environments, high availability, security, disaster recovery, monitoring, operations procedures, script customization, data replication mapping and training plans. After defining the architecture, the production deployment phase started with incremental sprint-like deployments. Additional files were deployed into production every few weeks.

US Foods used tcVISION to do an initial bulk load and ongoing CDC of their mission critical mainframe Datacom data to the MySQL database. This allows their business to modernize the application on MySQL without disrupting the existing critical work on the legacy system.

Successful, real-time mainframe data replication to their MySQL target database now allows much more diverse access, reduced mainframe MIPS costs, and enhances their ability to respond to business environment changes.

