

CASE STUDY:

VERTALI MIGRATION EXPERTISE ENABLES US BANK TO UPDATE AND IMPROVE SECURITY

CLIENT AND PROJECT

IBM approached Vertali to help its client to migrate its External Security Manager (ESM) from Broadcom's CA Top Secret® (TSS) to IBM's RACF (Resource Access Control Facility). The client is one of the USA's oldest and largest private investment banks, with offices around the globe and more than 6000 employees.

CHALLENGE

ESM migrations are an extremely complex undertaking. In this case, the bank had six databases to convert: 2 x production, 2 x development, and 2 x sandboxes. An added complication was merging the two development databases into one, with Vertali deploying different utilities and methods for conversion and merging. This all contributed to a major change project.

VERTALI SOLUTION

Given the complexity of the requirement, Vertali set up a project team that included a senior security architect, two highly experienced security consultants for the hands-on migration, and a project manager to ensure work stayed on track. The team used various

- Financial services: US private investment bank
- Migrate ESM from Top Secret to RACF
- A hugely complex project with numerous elements
- All work carried out remotely
- Migration completed successfully

utilities and processes including IBM's dbsync tool. The first step was assessing the bank's migration requirements, enabling a detailed technical design, project plan and accurate costings to be produced. Assessment included:

- **Investigation and analysis:** reviewing and documenting the bank's usage of TSS; identifying and classifying all functions and facilities; and identifying alternative solutions that may have been needed to replace existing functionality.

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🟡 **Planning:** defining project milestones; identifying windows for dress rehearsals and implementations; and building a detailed project plan.

Armed with a full description of TSS usage at the bank including functions, facilities, exits, TSS calls in application code, and possible alternative solutions, Vertali produced a **Technical Design** document as a key deliverable, with additional work incorporating:

🟡 A comprehensive **Migration Project Plan** detailing work packages, tasks, client resources required, milestones, deliverables, and dress rehearsal and implementation schedule.

🟡 **Initial RAID Log** – identifying risks and mitigating actions, initial assumptions, identifying issues and project dependencies.

🟡 **Project governance** including regular meetings and weekly progress reports from Vertali.

The bank's TSS to RACF migration was completed successfully, on time and within budget.

“This was a complex project, requiring a great deal of focus and attention to detail,” says Leanne Wilson, Senior Security Consultant and Technical Delivery Manager. “Initial analysis looked at what

could be converted and what couldn't, issues we were likely to run into, how subsystem security was set up, which digital certificates were in place, and so on. This provided an excellent overview of the bank's TSS landscape, enabling us to move into the conversion and build phase, when we focused on matters from an infrastructure perspective. Building RACF databases is a complex and iterative process, with repeated testing and rebuilds to achieve the quality we wanted, bringing in application teams and end user testing, and then conversion.” She says key elements included replicating subsystem security and ensuring the correct configuration required for successful replication.

“All of this work, including dress rehearsals and all these different issues coming out of the woodwork, fed into the go-live to make sure everything worked as planned. There were so many different elements and processes involved, when you consider how many aspects of the business and systems the ESM touches. This was a fantastic project to work on, which did require lots of weekend work and a few sleepless nights, culminating in a successful migration. The client, and IBM, were delighted.”



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