

CU2 Global – Case Study



CU2 Global “CU2” is a drag and drop solution for migrating Microsoft Access legacy applications, forms and files into the modern, secure system environment of SQL Server.

CU2’s Robotic Process Automation (RPA) technology engine converts not less than 90%, and up to 100%, of the conversion issues inside a Microsoft Access application as well as flagging the remaining outstanding issues, fast-tracking the resolution and completion of the migration project.

CU2 enables an organisation to address their Microsoft Access legacy issues in a manner that dramatically reduces the implementation and business risk in a timely and cost-effective manner.

The Background

ISM Interiors is a bespoke joinery company that specialises in commercial and architectural interior fit-outs. ISM’s headquarters is in Melbourne and has a broad range of clientele across Australia ranging from corporate, educational, retail through to all levels of government.

Founded in 1996, ISM had continually developed and enhanced its own internal management system known as ICON. ICON is built exclusively on the Microsoft Access (MS Access) technology platform, and is used by all departments within ISM.

The Challenge

MS Access limitations were starting to constrain ICON and thus ISM’s business. Performance and robustness of ICON’s mission-critical applications came into question as MS Access:

- has limited ability to interface to evolving technologies and business intelligence tools;
- has limited ability to take advantage of new service delivery platforms;
- has declining feature enhancements with successive new releases of Access from Microsoft, and;
- is experiencing a diminishing MS Access expertise pool;

to ensure the business is capable of meeting its current and future technology needs. The decision was made to move the entire system from MS Access to SQL Server, Microsoft’s

core database technology. SQL Server is an enterprise database solution that enables a business to scale quickly and is built with the ability to interface with most external technology platforms. This transition would provide stability to ISM’s technology requirements and maximise the use of their existing mission-critical applications.

Management of the conversion from MS Access to SQL Server was a challenge as:

- although management understood the complexity of the problem it took a number of years for them to finally decide to tackle the issue;
- no one in the business knew how to start the process;
- no one had the necessary skills in SQL Server to perform the migration in-house;
- management could not afford to have an extended project time if the project was to proceed manually, and;
- the business did not have the budget expected to be required to engage external consultants to perform the process manually.

ISM management had a critical and complex MS Access legacy application problem.

CU2 Global Solution

CU2’s 2SQL technology was used to convert ISM’s MS Access tables, data and queries to the new SQL Server platform whilst modifying the module code, forms and reports in order for these objects to communicate with the new SQL Server database in a true two-tiered client server model.

The 2SQL technology reached a 90% automated conversion level of ISM’s MS Access automatically and identified unresolved issues that prevented the full conversion.

Application Framework	154	1960	65.34	Expand
Optimization of Data Objects	24	396	13.2	Expand
MBA Framework	16	54	1.8	Expand
Deploy to Production Environment	696	771	25.7	Expand
Totals	1414	6809	226.96	
Units		680		

2SQL Screen Shot of a typical Complexity Summary Report

2SQL provides significant additional value in that the technology highlights unresolved issues, assisting the customer or CU2G to

Case Study Summary

Company
ISM Interiors – Victoria, Australia

Industry
Joinery – Commercial building

Application:
Microsoft Access

Challenge

- Cannot afford extended down time of systems.
- Don’t know where to start.
- Don’t have the skills.
- Does not have discretionary budget.

The CU2 Solution

- RPA converted over 90% of the application automatically from MS Access to the new SQL Server environment.
- Identified outstanding issues for manual “last mile” completion of the conversion.
- Process of migration required

Outcome

- Company completed the MS Access migration without extended down time – the rollout was completed within a 5 hour window.
- Over 90% of the 55,000 issues identified in the migration were automatically converted providing a significant cost and time saving.
- Business did not have to change its work processes or retrain users.
- The business successfully reduced its technology risk.
- The new SQL model will allow the Company to scale up its business in a modern, robust and secure technology platform.



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complete the migration, “the last mile”, manually and in a timely manner as remaining errors have already been identified, removing the need to review the entire application.

To run the 2SQL technology the Access front and back-ends need to be correctly identified and saved into a zip file format. This is then uploaded into the 2SQL Cloud service.

CU2G does not place the original system at risk.

Outcome

2SQL identified approximately 55,000 issues that required intervention before the conversion from MS Access to SQL Server could be completed. 2SQL reached an automation level in excess of 90% of the conversion process reducing the number of hours required by the project by a factor of 10.

Time and Cost Saving

2SQL reports to the user the number of interventions made in the automated conversion process, their complexity and the estimated time that would have been required to complete the process manually.

13,750 consulting hours saved.

Over 55,000 issues, requiring an estimated 13,750 hours of work to complete manually, using an average of 15 minutes to resolve each issue, were identified In the ISM Case Study. ISM’s only viable option would have been to engage an external MS Access/SQL Server Consultant expert to perform the conversion or completely rewrite the ICON system from scratch. Depending on the level of experience and expertise, typical consulting rates for a migration project range between \$80 to \$150 per hour. At either end of the charge out range, CU2 saved ISM a significant amount of both money and time.

No change in business workflow

A key benefit of using the 2SQL technology is that the Access applications and database are converted to SQL Server. MS Access remains as the technology base for the front-end user interface with the module code, forms and reports being modified so that they can continue to be used as before.

Not requiring a change in the user interface and the business workflow due to a change in the database technology means that ISM did not have to spend more time or resources to train their staff and/or change processes in the business.

Reduction in business risk

MS Access has several performance limitations ranging from the numbers of concurrent users able to access the system, the total size of the application, reducing levels of product feature enhancements, the inability to interact with developing technologies and service delivery architectures. In addition, MS Access is generally considered to have low-security settings, making it susceptible to data corruption and security issues.

By using CU2, ISM was able to migrate to SQL Server, an open, well supported and secure database technology, thereby reducing the business risk of ISM from a cyber attack event.

Positions ISM for Growth

The new SQL Server infrastructure places ISM in a position where the business can now scale up with confidence. As an enterprise solution, SQL provides the security and flexibility for ISM to react quickly to changing and evolving business requirements.

CU2 Global

2SQL identified over 55,000 issues that required intervention before the conversion from MS Access to SQL Server could be completed. 2SQL ultimately automated in excess of 90% of the conversion issues in less than 1 hour.

“ISM’s ICON application was without question the most complex Microsoft Access application we have ever seen. CU2’s ability to resolve the issues and deliver the project is validation that our technology is the market leader in MS Access Legacy Application Migration to SQL Server.”

Andrew Dale, CEO of CU2 Global

For further information on the services of CU2 Global, please go to our website:



www.cu2global.com

or contact us on info@cu2global.com

