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EGL Migration Now Also for Adabas and Natural

Ravensburg, September 13, 2007 – The Ravensburg-based migration specialists from PKS Software are expanding their Smart product suite with SmartDCI. Now the entire migration of the development and operation platform for applications can also encompass the mainframe environment that runs with the middleware products Adabas and Natural. With the help of SmartDCI, Adabas databases are migrated to Oracle and DB2, and Natural applications are migrated to EGL.

The complete Smart product suite, which was previously offered for the modernization of RPG applications on AS/400, will be presented to the public for the first time ever at the Systems 2007 convention in October 2007 in Munich. In addition, PKS has also already announced other events that will be held in cooperation with IBM and Oracle.

According to the manufacturer, Adabas applications can be migrated to Oracle or DB2 databases with SmartDCI – without having to make any modifications to the source code. All calls to Adabas are made at runtime and, totally unnoticed by the applications, are transmitted to the relational database in the background. Data from the relational database are then returned to the application(s) in the Adabas format. At the same time, all Adabas specifics (ISN, multiple fields, period groups, super descriptors, etc.) are also transferred. Period groups and multiple fields are migrated to a fully normalized database scheme.

The applications themselves remain untouched because SmartDCI only replaces the system interface to Adabas (the so-called ADALNK). This is why applications in any languages can be moved from Adabas C to relational databases, whether they were written in Cobol, PLI, Natural or Assembler.

Through a rule-based converter, SmartEGL also migrates comprehensive and complex Natural applications to the programming language EGL (Enterprise Generation Language) in a highly automated fashion. The applications can be made available as Java or Cobol apps and executed in a variety of environments without having to make any further changes. EGL is a fourth generation programming language (4GL) that was developed by IBM.

In order to facilitate access to Adabas legacy databases by applications based on EGL, a Natural-like access layer is provided for EGL, which doesn't need any direct Adabas programming. Developers can code the Adabas calls they're used to from Natural in EGL. Access libraries automatically convert the statements to Adabas direct calls.

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