Frequently Asked Questions

Why did Sophisticated Business Systems change its name to ATERAS?

Sophisticated Business Systems changed its name on May 11, 2006. Adopting a new tagline of "automated solutions for legacy migration and modernization," ATERAS will harness its global capabilities and work through partners to proactively deliver solutions to clients in a fresh and exciting way that delivers economic value. The vibrant color of the new logo reflects the energy and forward movement that is inherent in the new company culture. The new look reflects the vision of a company with an eye towards the future.

The strategic focus for ATERAS remains unchanged to provide end-to-end fully automated conversion solutions that migrate older applications and databases to up-to-date languages and database management systems, including migrations from the mainframe to the mainframe and from the mainframe to distributed platforms utilizing the .NET Framework.

Why is the ATERAS solution so much quicker than alternative solutions?

The ATERAS strategy eliminates the risks, shortens the timeline for modernization, and lowers the cost of the conversion. While the ATERAS strategy minimizes manual intervention during the conversion process, it maximizes the resulting application's performance, ease of enhancement and extendibility. ATERAS provides a cost effective method for moving from older non-relational technology to newer relational technology.

ATERAS uses the powerful DB-Shuttle™ technology for completely automating the assessment process and conversion of databases, data and applications. In addition, ATERAS modernization and conversion projects are expertly defined and meticulously managed throughout the project lifecycle.

DB-Shuttle provides 100% conversion automation to modernize databases and applications resulting in 100% functional equivalency, and equal or better performance at execution. There is no limit to the number of databases, database types or application languages. Unlike other alternatives ATERAS does not require a code freeze.

DB-Shuttle is rules-based. Rules are kept at a language level for each language and at a customer level for each conversion. DB-Shuttle uses these rules and the de-constructed customer source code, stored as metadata, to generate high-performance structured programs and components performing the same business functions with newer technologies.

Is the target code maintainable by the customer after the conversion?

Yes! The logic of the converted code parallels the logic of the source code. In most cases the conversion of a line of the source application code results in a single line of the converted application code. Application developers who maintained the application prior to the conversion will be able to maintain the resulting converted application code since it is similar in structure and additional code has not been added.

What is the quality of the code that is generated using the ATERAS automated solution?

The quality of the converted code is one of ATERAS' top priorities. A single line of code in the source application is converted to a single line in the converted application a high percentage of the time. The goal of ATERAS is to provide functional equivalency using the previously mentioned methodology. The resulting code provides functional equivalency while also providing the required performance demanded by high volume transaction environments. ATERAS has many conversion customers that can attest to the high quality of the converted code.

What is the value of an assessment? Can this be done without a conversion?

The ATERAS Assessment results in a well-defined plan for the conversion project including costs, timelines, and a project map detailing concept to deployment. Both high-level and detailed assessment reports are presented to appropriate customer team members for discussion.

The Software Assessment is a complete research and analysis project that outlines all mainframe application and database conversion candidates. Components are classified and listed in detail. Notes are attached to components requiring special attention during the conversion process. All application components are inventoried, classified by language, and cross-referenced. Missing components are collected and added to the inventory. Duplicate components residing in multiple Customer repositories are eliminated from the inventory. The Assessment results in a complete understanding of the current processing environment.

An assessment can be completed without doing a conversion. To find out more information please contact info@ateras.com.

What makes the ATERAS .NET solution different from other solutions?

ATERAS has integrated Visual Studio 2005 and SQL Server 2005 into its Microsoft .NET Framework-based solution, following the Microsoft architecture. This strategy helps companies migrate applications away from proprietary environments to modern, open technologies such as Microsoft .NET in support of an "off-mainframe conversion solution." DB-Shuttle™ automatically migrates mainframe applications and databases to modern languages and database management systems.

DB-Shuttle supports automated conversion of Integrated Data Management System (IDMS) Mainframe databases and applications to a multi-tier .NET environment. Future capabilities will include the migration of Information Management System (IMS), Datacom, Adabas and Virtual Storage Access Method (VSAM) to the .NET platform.

Are program changes allowed during the conversion process?

Yes. DB-Shuttle can be instantly executed against any changed IDMS source components throughout the conversion process. The modified programs must be re-extracted and passed through DB-Shuttle for analysis and inventory. DB-Shuttle can then execute against these changed components to produce the SQL components required for the conversion.

Program changes can be made anytime throughout the conversion effort. Re-testing of the changed source components is recommended.

Are database changes allowed during the conversion process?

Yes. SQL Imager© requires about 2.07 seconds per IDMS record type to convert the schema and write the related extract programs. If the schema changes, SQL Imager© is re-executed against the revised schema. If SQL Imager's data cleansing features are used, they must be reviewed and re-applied to the revised schema.

Database changes can be made anytime throughout the conversion effort. Re-testing of the programs that access the changed structure is recommended.