

Modernisation

A new lease of life for legacy systems

Key Features

- From green screen to modern GUI
- Integration via Web Services
- Deploy legacy applications over the web
- Multiple languages
- From character-based to graphical reports
- Extends lives of legacy applications

Benefits

- IT investment preserved
- Up-to-date looking applications
- Reach new partners or markets via web
- Speak the language of all your users
- Find new markets outside your language zone
- Maintain control over reports

A feature of PROIV applications is that they stand the test of time. But that doesn't mean those applications should stand still. As new technologies come on stream, it makes sense to adapt existing systems to take advantage of what modern technology has to offer - without disrupting proven functionality.

To help you make the most of your existing investment in code and systems, we offer a range of modernisation services.

- Turning a green-screen application into a modern graphical application
- Integrating or interfacing all or part of a PROIV application with the web (B2C) or other applications (B2B) via XML and Web Services
- Extending applications to mobile devices
- Broadening the user base by introducing multiple languages or business vocabularies
- Creating modern graphical reports to replace or augment existing character-based reports

Modernisation is a cost-effective way of refreshing existing systems. It extends the life of your investment in code and functionality and it lets you introduce new technologies in stages that suit your budgets, cash flows and business timescales.

If modernisation does require changes to the underlying application, the changes are closely defined and easily-controlled, which keeps risk to a minimum.

Bring in a modern graphical interface

PROIV comes with its own built-in graphical user interface (GUI). Existing green-screen applications run perfectly well - and look much better - with the latest version of PROIV. They can, however, be updated further to give them the full look and feel of a modern GUI. Updating of green screens can be complete (all screens) or partial (a selection). The first step is to confirm the look and functionality of the chosen screens. With a design in place, we can confirm a price for development, training and implementation. If required, we can also include a full QA service targeted on the most used screens or the screens used by a particular department.

NorthgateArinso normally recommends a framework approach which brings a consistent style (graphics, background, tabs, buttons etc) to the entire application. Frameworks are global, which means the look of your entire system can be changed in one operation for consistency and simplicity.

PROIV's Menu and Security Driver is a helpful and easily-installed product that gives you a prebuilt framework with standard menu and built-in security. It brings a modern front-end to any existing application.

A new graphical interface:

- preserves investment in the existing application
- reduces risks because business logic is, by and large, untouched
- provides a modern look and feel to a legacy application
- can be targeted to a defined area of the application
- is cost-effective because conversion uses existing tools

Deploy your application on the web (e-commerce)

An easy way to broaden the use of existing applications is to make them available on the worldwide web. We can help you achieve your e-commerce objectives by creating an environment that meets your current requirements and which is robust, flexible and scalable enough to support future developments. Functionality changes fast on the web, which is why our e-commerce delivery model has been developed with change in mind.

Our PROIV Services team will help define the business and technological objectives that will make your company successful in an e-commerce environment. A key consideration is reducing project risk and protecting your investment in the project.

The very act of web-enabling forces you to make a series of critical decisions about automating your business practices. To ensure everyone understands what is required, we will walk you through those decisions. Our business consultants are well-trained and highly experienced in this methodology.

In legacy applications, business logic and screen presentation are often integrated. PROIV has the tools to split business logic from screen presentation so that web and screen presentation can be linked. This approach reduces maintenance and creates consistency within the two presentation formats. And, if you don't have your own web development team, we can step in to develop web screens for you. Naturally we would have to agree the design and operation of the screens before developing them for web deployment. To reduce risk and ease cash flows, we can offer a phased approach that takes one set of screens or a particular business area at a time.

Our e-commerce service lets you extend applications to the B2C business environment without reducing the robustness of your existing systems or sacrificing the investment you have made in those systems.

The benefits of the web deployment are:

- Investment in the existing application is preserved
- Your application reaches a wider audience
- You can target a defined area of your application
- You can use existing tools to reduce the cost of conversion

Deploy your application in as many languages as you need

In a world in which applications cross borders and industries, it makes sense to speak the language or use the terminology of your audience. The PROIV multi-lingual service lets you run your application in any number of languages using a single PROIV source code. The variants you can use include different languages, dialects, industry terms or the jargon of separate divisions within a single business.

The process involves identifying all the source text (including screen tags, messages, prompts, help messages etc) and then translating it (manually) into your chosen languages or dialects. These translations are then stored ready for retrieval when the relevant language is called.

A multi-lingual approach:

- Opens up foreign markets to existing applications
- Allows existing applications to be used by divisions of a company based elsewhere in the world

As indicated above, going multilingual is a two-step process. The first step is to tokenise the source text; the second is the actual language conversion. There are tools available to simplify the process. Since the first step involves a system re-gen, it makes sense to do this when moving to PROIV Version 6.

See Multilingual datasheet for full description of this product.

Integrated graphical reporting with full user control

The traditional way of creating graphical reports to complement PROIV applications is to bring in third-party products. The alternative to these standalone solutions was an integrated character-based report within PROIV.

Now, however, PROIV includes its own tools and techniques for converting existing reports into modern graphical reports which are integrated into PROIV. The first phase of this graphical reporting service looks at report design. Before we can convert existing reports, we have to establish the format and design of the finished reports.

The toolset we use lets you choose where the report is printed and in what format. It also includes options for displaying reports on screen for a manual decision on whether to save, print or email it.

These tools also allow for the future support and maintenance of the existing reporting suite. They give you the choice of developing your own new reports or inviting PROIV to develop them for them.

Our graphical printing service gives you:

- graphical reports that are integrated into your PROIV application
- control over the graphics and the destination of each individual report
- simplicity and continuity because you can maintain them using existing PROIV report logic

See Graphical Printing Service datasheet for full details of this service.