

Leveraging Business Rules Extraction To Eliminate Modernization Risk

BUSINESS GOALS

Syntel's client, a leading North American insurer, wanted to eliminate performance bottlenecks caused by legacy applications, so they set out to modernize business-critical core systems by migrating to new platforms that would enable new technologies to be integrated.



BUSINESS BENEFITS

The validation process ensured that the extracted rules had no errors and the code coverage process ensured that there were no omissions. Other benefits included:

100% complete business rule extraction

Technical business rules are extracted and abstracted for use by business analysts

Zero loss of functionality

Modernization risks are mitigated, and there is no interruption of business-critical operations

CHALLENGES

- Due to the complexity of the program logic, conventional tools were unable to extract all the business rules without errors and omissions.
- There was a risk of business rules being omitted due to complexity, which would have resulted in functionality shortfalls and cost overruns.
- The extracted rules had to be documented in simple language that is easy for business users to understand, instead of the cryptic program logic statements that standard tools generate.

ROADMAP

Syntel prepared the core systems modernization roadmap and made several recommendations to the client:

- Do not treat modernization like new development, because there are existing business processes which must not be disrupted.
- Do not focus solely on technology. Instead, plan holistically to ensure that investments are aligned with the business strategy.
- Be extra aware of pitfalls of failing to extract all active business rules, which can lead to functionality gaps.

WHAT IS DYNAMIC BRE?

Dynamic BRE validation differs from normal testing. In normal testing, the requirements are assumed to be correct, and we test a program's behavior to ensure it corresponds to the requirements. In Dynamic BRE, we invert that paradigm. We define the program's behavior to be correct, and test the extracted business rules to see whether they correspond to the program's behavior.

EXECUTION

Syntel leveraged its Exit Legacy tool and patented methodology to:

1. Identify the underlying application structure
2. Perform a static BRE using Exit Legacy to identify candidate business rules
3. Use Dynamic BRE to validate candidate business rules by creating and executing test cases against the legacy code to reveal any omissions

VALUE ADDS

- Created a complete regression test suite
- Provided rules in plain language so that non technical staff can also understand
- Rules can be consumed by a business rule management system (or "rules engine") or expressed in business rule language

About Syntel

Syntel (Nasdaq:SYNT) is a leading global provider of integrated information technology and knowledge process services. Syntel helps global enterprises evolve the core by leveraging automation, scaled agile and cloud platforms to build efficient application development and management, testing and infrastructure solutions. Syntel's digital services enable companies to engage customers, discover new insights through analytics, and create a more connected enterprise through the internet of things. Syntel's "Customer for Life" philosophy builds collaborative partnerships and creates long-term client value by investing in IP, solutions and industry-focused delivery teams with deep domain knowledge.

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