

A background image of a city street at sunset, with long shadows and a warm orange glow from the setting sun.

Accelerating an enterprise-wide integration transformation programme

CASE STUDY

Our Client, a large Global Investment and Asset Management firm, were undertaking a significant enterprise-wide transformation of their integration capability. Icon Solutions was approached to provide a target state architecture and a staged roadmap to guide the evolution of their integration landscape.

They were facing challenges because of conflicting priorities between the integration transformation and a parallel enterprise-wide transformation of their development capability (aligning with both agile and devops paradigms). Despite being highly experienced, the middleware team had started to suffer from over-utilisation, due to investigating and supporting build, deploy, test and environment issues, rather than concentrating on application delivery.

They also had concerns around the long-term scalability and supportability of the incumbent integration software, upon which the middleware estate had been developed. Challenges had been raised by internal customers regarding the middleware team's feature delivery schedules, growing support costs, and risk mitigation strategy.

Why Icon Solutions?

Icon has considerable expertise in integration architecture and middleware technologies, having designed and delivered both integration solutions and automated delivery pipelines for Tier 1 Banks. We also have an extensive history with this organisation, having originally designed and implemented their bespoke middleware solution, and then provided ongoing expert consultancy as required.

Our Approach

Icon's approach involved four stages over six months:

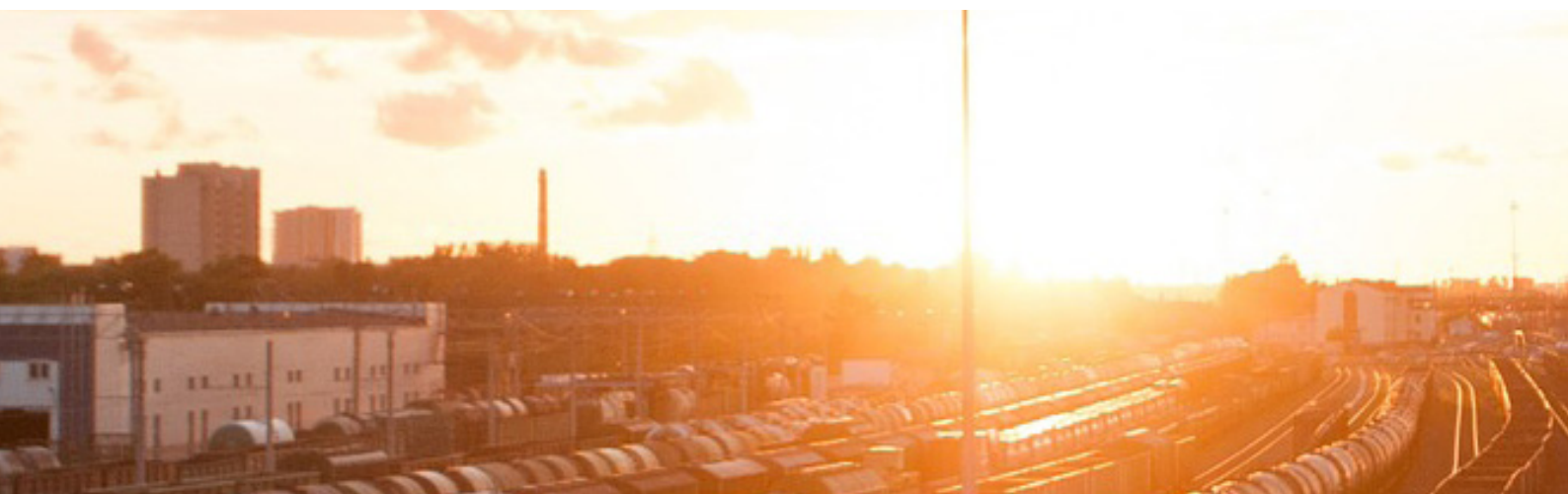
- An assessment of the current middleware estate and build and management processes, to understand strengths, pain points, risks and any potential opportunities
- Refinement of the target integration architecture and its automated build and deployment approach, to ensure it met requirements (cost, longevity, scalability, resilience, automation, customer delivery timelines)
- Delivery of a fully functional, automated and integrated continuous integration solution for the new middleware estate, using organisation-approved technologies, as well as industry standard integration architecture principles

The Outcomes

Icon defined a high-level target state architecture and core architectural principles that both simplified and optimised the middleware estate. We also provided a supportable model for interaction with internal customers which addressed their concerns regarding delivery costs and timelines. We accelerated the delivery of the target solution by the rapid implementation of the automation of the existing build and deployment and monitoring process, which also alleviated immediate pressures on the middleware team. We then continued to deliver a fully functional, automated, continuous integration solution for the new middleware technology stack, which brought significant savings in both cost and time:

- Reduced delivery time and removal of dependencies between internal customer solutions
- Automated build and deployment processes
- Automated testing and environment provisioning
- A central view of middleware data distribution processing in development environments
- Reduced dependency on SME knowledge
- Reduced operational risk through simplified product architecture

Icon's deep knowledge of integration architecture and the DevOps domain was key to the success of the engagement. We removed immediate blockages and pressures, minimised technical debt, streamlined and automated processes and delivered the target solution, while providing core architectural guidance and governance.



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DIFFERENTIATE YOUR ORGANISATION**

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