

Case Study: Alcatel-Lucent

Alcatel-Lucent

Alcatel-Lucent's vision is to enrich people's lives by transforming the way the world communicates. Alcatel-Lucent provides solutions that enable service providers, enterprises and governments worldwide, to deliver voice, data and video communication services to end-users. As a leader in fixed, mobile and converged broadband access, carrier and enterprise IP technologies, applications, and services, Alcatel-Lucent offers the end-to-end solutions that enable compelling communications services for people at home, at work and on the move.

With 79,000 employees and operations in more than 130 countries, Alcatel-Lucent is a local partner with global reach. The company has the most experienced global services team in the industry, and Bell Labs, one of the largest research, technology and innovation organizations focused on communications. Alcatel-Lucent achieved adjusted proforma revenues of Euro 18.3 billion in 2006, and is incorporated in France, with executive offices located in Paris.



Camel Gateway solution

The challenge

Alcatel-Lucent was contracted by a consortium of mobile operators to deliver a custom-built Camel Gateway and protocol converter within very ambitious timescales.

The solution was necessary to enable members of the consortium to handle high volumes of SS7 messages passing between Mobile Switch Centres (MSC) and the billing system.

Although Alcatel-Lucent had selected a suitable hardware platform and high-performance SS7 stack, the project timescales needed to create the custom software needed represented a key area of risk.

The solution

Alcatel-Lucent turned for assistance to its trusted software partner, IPL. Having worked with IPL on many previous developments involving SS7 platforms, Lucent knew it could depend on IPL's expertise and professionalism in this specialist domain.

To start, IPL consultants worked with Alcatel-Lucent architects to document the customer's detailed systems requirements. Upon sign-off, the Alcatel-Lucent project manager then rapidly assembled a team of developers, including a number of key IPL staff.

IPL played an important role designing and coding the Service Control Point (SCP) – that is, everything from the SS7 stack up to the TCP/IP interface into the billing system.

This included a Camel message decoder, the service logic and its execution environment, and a message generator for the billing system organized around IMSI ranges. IPL also developed various management functions including timer routines, statistics handler and an alarm/error condition handler.

The highlights

By bringing IPL into the project from 'day one' and by entrusting IPL with some critical components of the development, Alcatel-Lucent were able to successfully deliver and commission the solution on time and within budget.

Furthermore, the efficiency of IPL's code has resulted in the 4-CPU fault tolerant Intel Xeon platform working very comfortably within its rated load-sharing capacity.

IPL has again demonstrated its ability to integrate seamlessly with its clients' teams, and its superb ability to deliver complex technical solutions that work every time.

The result is that Alcatel-Lucent now has a key reference customer in a particularly dynamic segment of the European mobile market, and an excellent opportunity for further sales to other partners within the consortium.

About IPL

Founded in 1979, IPL has a long history of successfully delivering excellent value consultancy and end-to-end solutions to both the public and private sectors.

IPL's consultancy is renowned for its quality and value. Our consultants are talented and independent-minded individuals with extensive industry experience. We consistently exceed our clients' expectations through a combination of imaginative thinking, managerial and technical expertise and many years of systems engineering experience.

IPL's track record in end-to-end solutions development is exceptional. Our proven development methodology allows us to cut through technical complexity, manage risk and completely focus on delivery. We consistently deliver reliable, efficient and accurate systems to a precise schedule.

IPL is an ISO9001:2000/TickIT registered company having a permanent workforce of 240, revenues of ca. £21M p.a. and 40,000 sq ft of secure office space in central Bath.



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