

Case Study



Customer Name:
Clalbit Systems

Headquarters:
Tel Aviv, Israel

Line of Business:
Insurance

Number of Employees:
~4,000

<http://www.clalbit.co.il>

Insurance Leader Performs Major Database Conversion with SCM Safeguards.

For regulatory compliance, Clalbit Systems integrates the DB development work of multiple teams and environments without skipping a beat or missing a change request.

- Merge times have been reduced from half a day to minutes, allowing continuous merges around the clock.
- Design or requirement changes can be more flexibly accommodated during development.
- Teams collaborate without accidentally overwriting code or other changes, eliminating backtracking, improving productivity.
- Development work is preserved while moving between geographically dispersed environments.
- Managers gain control and visibility over object changes: who, when and why.

About Clalbit Systems

Clalbit Systems is the software development arm of Clal – one of the largest insurance companies in Israel. Its large in-house development team maintains and improves the company's IT infrastructure and applications for group agents and in-house staff.

The Challenge

Clalbit Systems' strategy is driven by Clal's desire to maintain the excellent quality of service delivered by its employees and agents, all dedicated to personally meeting and exceeding the needs of each and every client. Within the many projects undertaken by Clalbit systems, some underscore the company's strategy and are key to its performance. One of these entailed a complete rewrite of its pension-account management application to support new business guidelines and regulations. The new application, in turn, required data conversion. Like all Clalbit Systems' projects, this one utilized ALM methodologies, including source control and clear segregation between development, integration, internal



"After implementing DBmaestro, we finally have gained full control of our databases. Having our schemas, data, triggers and other database artifacts managed makes a huge difference. By integrating the application with our source control and continuous integration paradigm, we are able to deploy our application in minutes and with fewer errors."

Jonathan Bar-Sela,

Development Manager

Long Term Savings

Clalbit Systems



QA, external QA, and production environments. All systems were also deployed over identically configured infrastructure to ensure testing efficiency and accuracy.

While Clalbit Systems' source development practices were as advanced as possible, they needed to achieve even greater stringency in managing database artifacts in the process of correlating those changes to code changes.

Why Database Change Management Differs

During code modification developers work on a local copy, publishing the change only when the work is complete and the code is returned to the system using a check-in operation. Changes to database artifacts, however, become active as soon as a DBA or developer commits the change or runs the associate DDL command in the database. This leads to code overwritten by several developers, which a) loses the results of many working hours and b) ends up producing an incorrect definition of the object. To protect Clalbit Systems from the unintended consequences of such a scenario, they required a policy enforcement mechanism that prevented database code from being overwritten. Clalbit Systems also needed better support for their collaboration efforts between geographically dispersed teams; a solution that would allow each team to work in its own database environment while reducing the challenges of moving development activities between the various teams' environments.

The Solution

Clalbit Systems determined that the only product that could effectively address all these requirements was DBmaestro, the company and its database enforced change management solution of the same name. DBmaestro enabled its development teams to better coordinate activities through a check-out / check-in mechanism. It also enabled them to capture a version of the database artifacts at any time during the development cycle and set it as a baseline for deployment.

TeamWork™ Deployment

With DBmaestro's deployment engine, Clalbit Systems has reduced the time it takes to merge and integrate environments from a four-hour minimum to minutes. Today, at least one team is typically performing such a merge at any given time. With this efficiency, developers not only gain more flexibility in accommodating design changes; they and their team leaders get back the half day of productivity previously lost to lengthy merge cycles. And by managing the database schema and content alongside the application code, Clalbit Systems has been able to improve its continuous testing and other automation processes, thus reducing QA time and improving code quality.

Team supervisors now also have an accurate and current status of each team member's work assignments. Team collaboration has improved as well, as object status is published and no code or other changes can be accidentally overwritten. This also keeps team motivation high, as they do not need to redo changes.

DBmaestro clearly benefits Clalbit Systems' DBAs and database developers, while providing management with new supervision tools.