



## Case Study: Healthcare Management Systems

Richmond, VA. Healthcare Management Systems (HMS) has been a MultiValue VAR providing business solutions to health care providers since 1976.

HMS provides turnkey billing software for practices that desire their own independent billing operation. Radiology, Pathology, Anesthesia, and Emergency Room practices each utilize HMS software specific to their own specialty. HMS also provides a billing service thru a separate division for medical groups who do not wish to face the challenge of an internal billing operation. This service employs cloud technology. These proven solutions were developed in the very comprehensive MultiValue environment Power95 in Unix AIX on expensive IBM RISC 6000 servers. Part of the challenge facing HMS management was that Power95 stopped being supported by any MultiValue provider. Richard Usry states "it was a challenge finding a replacement for Power95. Other MultiValue systems didn't have many features that were available in Power95 and in one comparison was missing over 200 features that would have required program modifications. ONware had only 3 features that needed program modifications."

HMS president and chief developer, Richard Usry, was looking for a way forward for their existing customers that continued to provide the medical business solutions HMS had spent years developing and that their customer Medical offices and Medical billing companies were familiar with. Usry also wanted to move into the 21st century by providing the latest technology including replacing the no-longer-supported Power95 database with the popular Oracle Relational Data Base Management system and all the Relational tools available in the Oracle environment. However the option of rewriting their existing medical business applications in a new language specific to the Oracle environment would have been a multi-year project requiring the hiring of a new development team that would have cost millions of dollars.

Some options Usry evaluated were migrating to D3, the latest MultiValue offering supported by his current Power95 supplier, and UniVerse, another MultiValue environment. Neither option supported all the options HMS currently used in Power95. And, of course, neither provided the ability to move to the relational database Oracle.

Usry discovered ONgroup, the supplier of a MultiValue environment, ONware, that would enable his applications to use Oracle as the database, retaining HMS MultiValue source code by just recompiling them with ONware.

A requirement for Usry was minimal, if any, change to application function. This would alleviate training and support. ONware satisfied this requirement. According to Richard Usry, "We have had a very positive experience with our ONware conversion processes. Our clients don't see their daily processes change; and, because no re-training of our clients' employees is necessary, this has been a significant advantage in upgrading their systems with ONware. We have been able to provide enhanced reporting capabilities for our clients, and the speed of the Windows ONware product has been phenomenal." Usry added, "ONgroup added functionality to ONware that was unique to Power95, they worked with us to create Oracle specific utilities to replace the versions that were dependent on Power95."



With identical source code, HMS customers are now running on Oracle or Power95, with the same functionality. Most of the customers have upgraded to Oracle on Windows to obtain the derivative benefits, yet there is no requirement for them to do so.

ONware is a framework that emulates most MultiValue frameworks (e.g. UniVerse, UniData, D3) with the power to employ relational database systems (e.g. Oracle, SQL Server) or other MultiValue database systems. The ONware software and related services are offered by Blacksmith Corporation and its distributors, such as ONgroup Inc ([www.ongroup.com](http://www.ongroup.com)) of Pensacola FL.

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