



SUCCESS STORY

Independent quality assurance and migration expertise: the key to a successful upgrade

SKYSPARC'S CONSULTANTS USED OMNIFI TO ACCELERATE TESTING AND MIGRATION FOR SPF BEHEER'S WALLSTREET SUITE UPGRADE.



SPF Beheer bv

INDUSTRY
Asset management

SOLUTIONS
SkySparc OmniFi

ABOUT SPF BEHEER

SPF Beheer is a pensions and employee benefits specialist based in the Netherlands with €18.1 billion of assets under management in equities, bonds, direct real estate, private equity and commodities on behalf of 100,000 plan participants.

Wallstreet Suite is SPF Beheer's core asset management system, with around 30 users across front, middle and back offices and in the finance department.

The asset management department makes use of a wide range of financial instruments, including private equity instruments. Interfaces used include SWIFT for settlement, Pearl for performance management and SAP for financial accounting.

CHALLENGE

When SPF Beheer faced an upgrade of Wallstreet Suite, Robert Segaar, Manager, Operations and IT Asset Management, quickly realized his team had a large and business-critical project ahead, in addition to maintaining business-as-usual service levels.

Support was ending for version 6.5, and version 7.4 represents a significant change in functionality.

In addition, the team had a wish list of modifications and improvements. Says Segaar: "We wanted to end workarounds in some instrument set-ups and eliminate some earlier CSDs. We wanted to get the benefits of improved auditing functionality. We were looking for much faster performance from the accounting interface. And we also wanted to take the opportunity to clean our legacy static data and transactions."

As a result, the decision was made to migrate data and configurations to a clean "factory settings" version of 7.4.

Once planning for this major project began, Segaar recognized the scale of the work required on the client side and the need for additional resource and expertise. He set out to find a project partner that would work well as part of his team, but also bring a robust, independent view and specialist skills to the table.

QUICK FACTS

- SPF Beheer wanted strong **testing and migration expertise** to complement their in-house team.
- Using OmniFi to automate testing and migration **saved time** and contributed to a **successful, on-schedule go-live**.
- The **quality driven, problem-solving** approach of SkySparc's consultants was another **success factor**.

SOLUTION

Following an RFP process, SkySparc was selected as offering the best solution.

SkySparc consultants are noted for their testing and quality assurance methodology, and have a strong track-record of successful client-side projects.

SkySparc was asked to take on two critical client-side roles: responsibility for testing and quality assurance throughout the upgrade process; and for the migration of data and transactions to the new 7.4 production environment.

In both cases, SkySparc consultants planned, managed and also executed these tasks. Although Segaar initially wanted his in-house team to undertake a good part of the testing, he realized early on this wouldn't be fully achieved due to the heavy involvement of the team in other project tasks. "It was a good, early decision to ask SkySparc to handle the testing. Ultimately it contributed to the success of the project," he says.

For the migration, SkySparc proposed the strategy and managed the execution, first cleansing the data, then migrating static and market data and finally, the active trades. OmniFi was also used to map and export the data from the old to the new production environment, speeding up the process and ensuring accuracy.

System configuration and data cleansing proceeded in parallel work streams, with unit testing and reconciliation of the static data and transactions representing an important early element of the work. Later, integration, migration and user acceptance testing (UAT) were thoroughly executed. SkySparc built a library of client-specific test cases and used OmniFi to automate regression testing at each stage. Says Segaar: "Using OmniFi meant SkySparc could do a lot of testing in a short time. It really helped to meet the deadline for the project."

"We had experienced and knowledgeable consultants from SkySparc who worked with us throughout the project as part of our core team.

OmniFi was also a big success factor in our project. Using OmniFi, SkySparc was able to run the testing and conversion cycles much faster than we would have been able to do ourselves."

Robert Segaar, Manager, Operations and IT Asset Management, SPF Beheer

RESULTS

The project, which took nine months, was completed on time and within budget.

Since go live, the business has experienced a stable system with much improved performance.

Careful preparation and project management with clearly defined responsibilities contributed to this success, says Segaar: "We had a good internal team, and SkySparc's contribution was very important. Their consultants were experienced in testing and migration, with a quality-driven, proactive approach that really showed through."

Using OmniFi to automate the testing and migration ensured a very thorough process. "We now have a library of test cases and we'll be using OmniFi in the future," says Segaar.

ABOUT SKYSPARC

SkySparc, an independent solutions provider trusted by banks, central banks, Fortune 100 corporate treasuries and asset managers, offers complementary software, outsourced support and a wide range of financial and technical consulting services. Outsourced support enables our customers to focus on their core business and benefit from attentive service from our financial and technical experts. SkySparc OmniFi delivers sustainable business value to customer through advanced management reporting, process automation, system integration and fully automated testing. SkySparc was named Technology Consultant of the Year in Central Banking's FinTech & RegTech Global Awards 2019, has previously won Treasury Today's Adam Smith Award for Best Risk Management Solution and Central Banking's Consultancy and Advisory Award, and is a four-time winner of Dagens Industri's Gazelle award.



EUROPE

Birger Jarlsgatan 27
111 45 Stockholm
Sweden
TEL +46 8 456 4000

AMERICAS

3 Columbus Circle
New York, NY 10019
USA
TEL +1 646 502 5281

EXPERT CENTER

EUROPE +46 8 456 4010
AMERICAS +1 646 502 5279
EMAIL expertcenter@skysparc.com

info@skysparc.com
www.skysparc.com