



ATX TECHNOLOGIES

Forms2net



The safest way to migrate Oracle Forms and Reports to .NET Technology

Overview

Forms2Net is the only worldwide migration tool for the automated conversion of Oracle Forms applications to Microsoft .NET technology:

- Minimizing time, cost and risk of the migration process;
- Reducing software maintenance costs;
- Preserving the functionality of the original system;
- Increasing development potential and business value of the system.

Why Migrate?

Many companies are looking for strategies and tools to migrate from Oracle development environments (traditionally called Oracle Forms) to more modern environments, such as Microsoft.NET.

The reasons for this interest vary, but include:

- Cost savings;
- Increased development productivity;
- Platform standardization;
- Customer/partner alignment;
- Administrative or political decisions.

At What Cost?

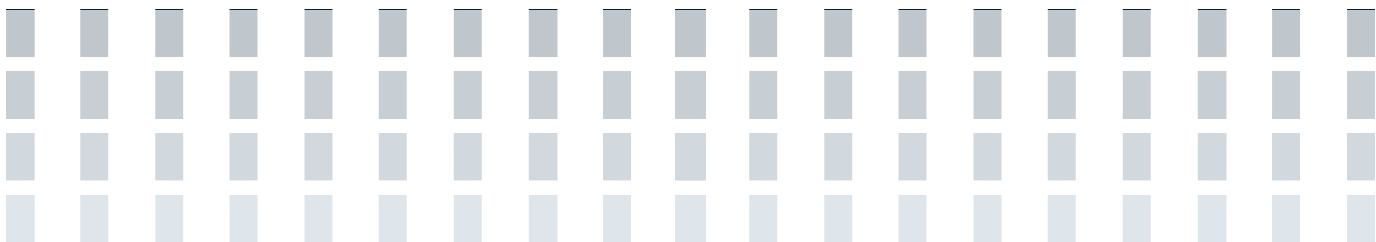
The cost of a migration process depends on several characteristics of the original system: size of the application, complexity of its components and behaviour patterns to migrate, *inter alia*.

Forms2Net Analyzer is an auxiliary tool that is provided for free to potential customers. It allows users to gather statistical information from their current source code in order to estimate the time and effort required for the migration process.

This tool is available freely from www.forms2net.com.

"Microsoft is pleased that ATX Technologies has created the Forms2Net add-in that will help our mutual customers in the migration process. Its solution will help alleviate a pain point for customers who are working with different database providers"

Brian Goldfarb, Technical Product Manager, .NET Developer Product Marketing Group, Microsoft Corporation





Forms2Net Features

Forms2Net converts Oracle Forms modules (fmb, mmb, pll and rdf files) into 100% pure .NET code in a Visual Studio solution.

Forms2Net offers the following features:

- Supports Oracle Forms and Reports versions 4.5 to 10g;
- Generates up to 100% of the final application's code, saving 70-90% effort;
- Generates either C# or VB.NET code;
- Generates a choice of target platform;
- Generates database-independent code;
- Generates high quality, easily maintainable code based on Microsoft recommended .NET best practices.

Forms2Net Master/Detail Demo

Departments
No: 10 Name: Administration Location: New York Country: United States

Details
Description: The Headquarters for Human Resources, Management and Finance
Responsible: Clark, Rick No of Employees: 3 Sales Volume: N/A

Employees of Selected Department

No	Name	Mng Id	Manager	Job	Salary	Hire Date
793	Miller	7782	Clark, Rick	Clerk	1500	23/01/1998
778	Clark	7839	King, Mark	Manager	2450	09/06/1989
783	King	(null)		President	5000	17/11/1977

Report Close

Record: 1/5

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7934	Miller	7782	Clark, Rick	CLERK	1500
7782	Clark	7839	King, Mark	MANAGER	2450
7839	King			PRESIDENT	5000

Report Close

Migration Scope

Forms2Net is targeted at the application layer only, i.e. users can choose to keep their Oracle database or migrate to another platform (e.g. Microsoft SQL Server with the SSMA tool).

Forms2Net is a family of tools consisting of the **Forms2Net Analyzer**, the **Forms2Net Converter** and the **Reports2Net Converter**.

The **Forms2Net Analyzer** generates statistics on Oracle Forms and Reports source components. These statistics are used by ATX to generate an Effort Estimation Report useful in project assessment.

The **Forms2Net Converter** transforms Oracle forms (fmb), menus (mmb) and library (pll) files to a target platform: Windows Forms (includes the WPF Forms) or Web Forms, in either C# or VB.NET.

The **Reports2Net Converter** transforms Oracle Reports (rdf) files to Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services (SSRS), including all fields and PL./SQL code..

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Responsible: Clark, Rick No of Employees: 3 Sales Volume: N/A

Employees of Selected Department

No	Name	Mng Id	Manager	Job	Salary	Hire Date
7934	Miller	7782	Clark, Rick	Clerk	1,500.00	23/1/1998
7782	Clark	7839	King, Mark	Manager	2450	09/06/1989
7839	King			President	5000	17/11/1977

Report Close

Mind the Gap!

All migration techniques have to address the semantic gap that separates the original from the target environment.

Forms2Net incorporates a sophisticated reengineering approach whereby code structures are identified and transformed into the desired target using the MVC architectural pattern. This powerful feature provides at least three significant advantages over a 1-1 syntactic mapping:

- A greater percentage of the source code is automatically converted;
- The resulting architecture enables easier maintenance and evolution;
- The resulting code complies with Microsoft .NET recommended best practices.

Forms2Net can generate up to 100% of the converted application's final code, offering a significant reduction of effort and costs over a manual migration process, expected to be in the region of 70-90%.

The output of Forms2Net is a full Microsoft Visual Studio solution. Development teams can fine tune or evolve the migrated application using all the functionality of this environment.

Architectural Optimization

The application's design is organized according to the industry-accepted Model-View-Controller (MVC) architectural pattern, in order to minimize interdependencies amongst different parts.

Model

- Maintains and manages the information manipulated by the form.
- Manages the communication with the database, using Datasets to store the data.

View

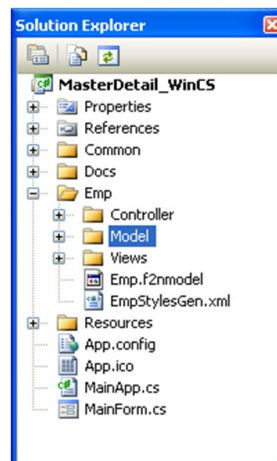
- Visualization of the model state;
- Responsible for the user interaction.

Controller

- Responsible for the relation and coordination between the Model and View components, in addition to the form's functional interface;
- Manages user interactions, mapping user actions and events into application responses;
- Translates the actions within the View to actions performed on the Model.

"Forms2Net enables a faster, cost effective and safer route towards .NET for companies who are wondering what to do with their legacy Oracle Forms applications."

**Bob Ellsworth, Director
Enterprise Platform
Modernization, Micro-
soft Corporation**





Available Services

Forms2Net is designed to be a tool that enables its users to move to .NET development quickly, safely and at low cost. It is licensed on a per-project basis, with the results of the Forms2Net Analyzer required to determine migration effort and cost estimations.

Clients of Forms2Net benefit from comprehensive training and support packages supplied by ATX. At the start of the project, the client's migration team should participate in taught classes and practical exercises to familiarise themselves with Forms2Net and the generated code. All of this is under the guidance of an experienced ATX consultant. Afterwards, the migration project can begin, with the initial participation of the ATX consultant on site, and afterwards through the remote support service designed to meet the needs of each individual client.

Application Migration Service

ATX Technologies have the capability to perform the entire migration of the client's application on their behalf.

An ATX team would perform thorough analysis of the original system during a pre-project Technical Analysis time period. This is followed by automatic conversion of the Oracle Forms components using Forms2Net. Following this, code completion is performed by the ATX team.

Delivery of code is generally in stages, depending on the size and complexity of the original system.

Customization Service

The use of Forms2Net not only enables clients to get their systems onto the .NET platform, but it also opens up rich potential for future development. Some of this development may be possible through customizing the code generators used by the Forms2Net and Reports2Net Converters.

Examples of customizations include:

- Generation of user interface controls from a 3rd party library;
- Modifying the output forms structure;
- Enforce globalization at the user interface layer;
- Move business logic to the database;
- Change coding conventions / naming policies in use.

Should Forms2Net clients wish to pursue this service, ATX will always guide them through the following:

1. Identifying the client's potential for customization;
2. Detailed customization analysis;
3. Customization implementation.



Forms2Net Case Studies

Client A

- Client Description:* A national telecoms company migrated their account handling system for large accounts to .NET
- Application Details:* 64 Forms, 3 menus, 11 libraries and 18 reports
- Migration Target:* C# ASP.NET and Microsoft SSRS
- Code Completion:* ATX
- Migration Effort:* 3 weeks

Client B

- Client Description:* A prominent non-profit organisation migrated their social assistance application to .NET
- Application Details:* 179 Forms, 5 Menus, 33 Libraries and 78 Reports
- Migration Target:* C# ASP.NET and Microsoft SSRS
- Code Completion:* ATX
- Migration Effort:* 2 weeks customization + 26 weeks code completion
- Database Migration:* 4 weeks migration to SQL Server 2005, using Microsoft SQL Server Migration Assistant, performed by ATX.

“Through Forms2Net and the Microsoft SQL Server Migration Assistant (SSMA), customers stuck with Oracle Forms now have an opportunity to move to .NET/SQL Server and achieve all the benefits of using the Microsoft Application Platform.”

**Lars Mikaelsson, Sales
Lead EMEA, Enterprise
Platform Modernization,
Microsoft Corporation**

Company Profile



ATX Technologies Ltd provides innovative and powerful solutions as well as a comprehensive set of services for companies and organizations that wish to modernize their software applications or improve their development process and software infrastructure. Our mission is to help our clients survive and grow in the turbulent markets of today by relying on IT systems that are agile in responding to business and technological changes, and can maximise efficiency across organisational structures.

Our mother company - ATX Software - has been in operation since 1996, when a team of young graduates decided to channel their creativity to the development of cutting-edge software engineering tools. During this period, we have built a wide portfolio of clients in the public and private sectors, both nationally and internationally, who have been using our services and solutions (often in more than one occasion) with improved results in cost effectiveness, productivity, quality and performance.

One of the main keys to our success is the degree of technological innovation

and specialization that we have achieved. Our investment in R&D has been paramount for developing technology that is both cost effective and highly innovative. The fact that we have been full partners of several European research projects and networks has allowed us to remain at the cutting edge end of IT and be competitive in what is a very fierce market.

Our partnership with the University of Leicester (initially sponsored by the European Commission) has given us the opportunity to engage with - and recruit from - a highly qualified pool of people. We take pride in having put together a flexible, multinational team of top professionals, which has allowed us to adjust to - and cope with - different project scales and market needs.

These factors are key to our ability to deliver the highest possible return to our customers and we are committed to developing and expanding them further.

For more information, please go to www.atxtechnologies.co.uk.



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