

Simplified BPCS upgrade pays off for Bridgestone Firestone

When Bridgestone Firestone decided to upgrade their AS/400-based BPCS ERP solution to the latest version, they wanted to reduce costs, improve the quality & speed up the migration. So they chose Cosyn's Spool Manager & BCD's Catapult for their print file management needs - & reaped the rewards.

Profile

Company: Bridgestone Firestone
Sector: Automotive
Employees: 750
Turnover: \$175 Million

Challenge

To upgrade their BPCS ERP system, and reduce the number of existing program modifications

Solution

A large number of program modifications related to print file management, so they:

Installed COSYN's rules-based SPOOL MANAGER software to manage print files without having to change programs

Installed BCD Software's 'Catapult™' product to distribute reports internally and externally over the internet as PDFs

Installed BCD Software's 'EZ-Pickins' to convert reports into spreadsheets

Cost

Under \$10,000

Benefits

- Reduced the time and programming cost of their ERP upgrade.
- The next ERP upgrade will be even easier still.
- More secure report delivery.
- Happier staff receive their reports by e-mail, in seconds not days.
- Reduced printing and distribution costs.
- Happy accountants can now get their reports as spreadsheets.

Bridgestone Firestone has been manufacturing and distributing automotive tires since 1900. It uses the same technology it employs in designing its race-winning 'CART, Indy Car and formula One tires as it does to design the tires for your vehicle.' However, the use of technology does not stop there. They also rely on market-leading technology to keep their business competitive in a very tough market, and that is why they chose COSYN and BCD's software technology.

Whilst preparing for their recent upgrade of their BPCS ERP software to Version 6.1.01, Bridgestone Firestone investigated their existing program modifications, and found that a large number of the changes were related to spool files and print management - specifically BPCSOUTQ. They implemented Cosyn's SPOOL MANAGER software to provide total external spool file automation so they didn't have to re-apply their expensive program modifications that relate to print management.

Within a day, SPOOL MANAGER was up and running and was making it easier for the IT Support team to copy, change and re-direct print files without making program changes. The team was also able to automate date-based purging of aged print files. SPOOL MANAGER also reduced the time that operations staff spent managing (or training users to manage) spool files, freeing them up to deal with more important issues.

According to Eddie Gardien, IT Support Consultant, "what little support we needed from COSYN has been great, but the software they have given us just ticks away in the background doing its job. What more can an IT manager ask for?"

With the need to support over 200 dealers, distributing reports and invoices to dealers was also a challenge. By introducing BCD's CATAPULT Report Distribution software, all reports are now distributed as standard e-mail attachments in Adobe Acrobat format. Bridgestone Firestone are looking forward to implementing the latest release of CATAPULT which allows them to add forms overlays and logos to the reports.

Eddie says "the increased level of customer service we are now able to deliver is hard to quantify financially. If a dealer requests an invoice or backorder report, we are able to deliver it electronically within minutes".

About COSYN SOFTWARE

Cosyn is a leader in creating intelligent software for the IBM iSeries and AS/400s. Founded in 1993, Cosyn specializes in bullet-proof solutions that help you manage IT operations more efficiently. Their aim is to take care of the necessary but time-consuming IT tasks so that the IT team can concentrate on the things that make a difference - like making a profit.

About BCD

For over 20 years, IBM midrange and PC network users have come to know BCD as a leader in the software industry who delivers quality, well-supported and easy-to-use productivity tools. With over 20,000 products installed in over 9,000 world-wide sites, it is no wonder that BCD Software is a repeat winner of 'Consumer Choice' and 'Technology Showcase Product Excellence' awards'.

