

Project Profile

Worldwide Contract Logistics Company



Client/Server Solutions

Project Summary

COMSYS designed, tested, and implemented a transportation-planning and alert system for business-to-business electronic commerce.

Business Problem

The client used advanced management systems to integrate complex logistics operations, including order fulfillment, transportation, storage, and distribution. The client was asked to develop a service to plan and schedule truck routes so that components could be delivered to specific locations, merged with components from other trucks, and then dispatched immediately to the point of sale. Synchronizing truck shipments to these "merge locations" would ensure that products moved quickly through the supply chain for efficient and on-time delivery.

The client was accustomed to tackling complex problems, but this was an entirely different matter. In addition to daunting logistical difficulties, the requested service had to support business-to-business electronic commerce while interfacing with a myriad of different applications on the client's Intranet. Faced with stringent contractual deadlines to get the job done, the client soon discovered it had neither the technical expertise nor the bandwidth to bring this service online. COMSYS was asked to supply the missing elements.

The COMSYS Approach

COMSYS began by helping the client determine the parameters of the new service. Once the ideal model was defined, the COMSYS team applied its full lifecycle development methodology and project-management practices to develop the model into a practical and workable service. COMSYS proposed a solution that could easily be adapted to new products the client was procuring while still fitting comfortably within the client's existing hardware and software environments.

continued

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The COMSYS Approach *continued*

The solution was a thin client/server application that included:

- Web-enabled Oracle forms and reports served by Oracle's Application Server and deployed on the client's intranet
- Oracle APIs for the client's ancillary support applications
- Data transfers using Mercator's eBusiness Broker Suite

Benefits to Client

- Delivery of the application on time and to the customer's satisfaction
- Ongoing technical support for the application
- More efficient processing and reporting of orders
- Shipment-planning functions that allowed for "What if... " scenarios
- Early-alert capabilities to warn of impending delays in the transportation network
- Savings through just-in-time delivery and reduced warehouse costs

System Environment

Server: Sun Solaris, HP

Desktop: HP

Database: Oracle 8i

Web server: Oracle Application Server (OAS)

Internet browser: Internet Explorer

Application code: Oracle Forms, Reports, PL/SQL

Other system requirements: Oracle Designer, UNIX, Mercator eBusiness Broker Suite

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