

CASINO group trusts MappingSuite for the management of its documents under Unix

An interview with Mr Jean-Marie BLIN, SCM Project Director at CASINO Group



CASINO Group, which started as a simple grocery store, has now chosen to position itself as a multifunctional mass distributor with 30 warehouses, 110 hypermarkets, 265 supermarkets and 5,000 convenience stores.

It was in June 2002 that **CASINO** Group approached **IBM** Printing in order to solve its printing issues under UNIX, namely:

??Be independent of the ERP systems GOLD and SAP when it comes to modifying spool files.

??Manage their Unix spool files as easily as on the AS400.

??Create PDF copies of their documents in order to recover quickly from any failure of the production system.

To deal with these issues, **CASINO** group had planned to purchase 2 software packages; one spooler and one printing software package. With **MappingSuite**, they found a single solution that addressed all 3 issues.

CASINO Group, which was founded in 1898, is one of the longest-established food distribution groups in France.

With over 75,000 employees, **CASINO** Group-France runs several major super and hypermarket chains in France. In order to guarantee the efficient management of its lead-times, **CASINO** needed a reliable, user-friendly document management solution.

Managing its documents autonomously

MappingSuite was implemented when the SAP and GOLD software packages were installed. **CASINO** first needed to reformat its core documents, such as its delivery orders, operation reports and transportation orders, and print bar codes on laser and thermal printers.

Employing **MappingSuite** has allowed them not only to reformat these documents internally (that is, without needing to modify their ERPs), but also to add the functionality of creating and printing bar codes.

In addition whereas the existing data flow would not allow them to create operation reports very easily, using the **MappingSuite** report and design software, **MAPREPORT**, enabled them to create them all within one month!

"MapReport is the only reliable tool that can allow us to print all our operation reports with the data we want to print."

A solution providing as many features under Unix

CASINO Group wanted the management of its UNIX spool files to be user-friendly and intuitive. Thanks to the installation of **MAPSPOOL**, the **MappingSuite** spooler, the users have been able to take advantage of features similar to those available on the AS/400.

Furthermore, **CASINO** Group, with its many different types of printers used for various purposes, needed to be able to manage multiple copies. **MAPSPOOL** has allowed the company to work with multiple printer bins easily, so that the printing jobs can be efficiently shared out between the different printers.

Besides, the spool manager enables the user(s) to transfer a job from one printer to another.

"Whenever a problem arises, the printing job can continue on another printer, which is essential for nightly production printing—you cannot have someone constantly keeping an eye on the printers," maintained Mr Blin, Supply Chain

Management Director at Project CASINO Group.



Today, all of their documents pass through the spool manager.

A tool capable of achieving JIT objectives

During the IBM Infoprint Forum 2004, Mr Blin insisted on the importance of meeting lead-times in the mass distribution sector.

To them, choosing an appropriate document management solution amounted to finding a tool that was responsive to unforeseen problems or changes. Until then, it would take them 10 days to prepare a picking document. *"With MappingSuite, which is so easy to use, our Montélimar unit has prepared its picking document in just one day!"* Mr Blin said.

Using MappingSuite has already allowed CASINO to save a lot of money, as it has helped them to **cut processing time by 60%** when making only minor changes.

Remedying any system failure

In order to meet their lead-times, CASINO Group also wanted to be able to re-print a document when one of the production printers breaks down.

Thanks to the implementation of the MappingSuite PDF module, they are now able to re-print copies of their documents, so that the trucks can take to the road at the scheduled time.

Discovering cost-effective new features

CASINO Group soon realized that MappingSuite could not only solve its printing and timing issues, but also improve their operation in other areas. Indeed, the MappingSuite Sorting, Splitting, and Joining function has enabled them to group all the documents intended for one customer (i.e., one invoice and one statement) and send them in only one envelope. **This has allowed them**

to save an estimated \$4,800 each month according to CASINO's accounting department.

In addition, there is another advantage of using this functionality: splitting 300 reports automatically at the end of each month—in a single job—has saved them from creating 300 different jobs!

Meeting new needs

With MappingSuite, CASINO Group has found a reliable solution to prevent disruptions of the company's supply chain—one of the main causes for economic losses.

Furthermore, MappingSuite has done more than just meeting CASINO's original needs as it provided them with an electronic archiving solution in compliance with the law, as well as an Internet publishing solution.

The MappingSuite team has been very efficient and available in installation, training, and support. This has played a large part in the success of the project," Jean-Marie BLIN concluded.

This interview was held during the IBM Infoprint Forum on March 11, 2004.