

WINDEV: live 24/7 on EuroNews

The TV channel EuroNews relies on a series of services developed using WINDEV to manage its video/audio sources 24/7 and to manage the commercial breaks. Precise, reliable and with great performance: WINDEV in the spotlight.



The company

Started in January 1993, EuroNews covers current events worldwide 24/7 from a European perspective, simultaneously in seven languages (English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian). Over 193 million homes get EuroNews in 121 countries by cable, satellite and antenna. EuroNews is the most watched news channel in Europe.

Project Leader



Claude Bruyas is responsible for development and information systems.

On the tube: WINDEV 24/7

One of the characteristics of EuroNews is that it's a post-production channel, meaning, television with little or no cameras. The editorial team (over 200 journalists) analyzes incredible amounts of images and presents all opinions without any national bias. One of the objectives of the computer department is



to provide appropriate tools to manage, process and synchronize these millions of images that come from around the world. Claude Bruyas explains the technical choices: "WINDEV was already used for business applications such as temp-worker contracts management through Oracle. At the same time, we also had some very specific needs when it came to managing the video and sound sources. These are applications without UI, services that run 24/7. WINDEV's technical capabilities and its openness allowed us to finally achieve our goals."

WINDEV at the service of current events in 7 languages

In EuroNews the same image is transmitted simultaneously in 7 different languages.

All the voices are recorded in PCM format on a server "and the program built on WINDEV gets all the audio sources and converts them to WAV. We used the 5GL functions `fRead` and `fWrite` to write in the file headers and then `FTPSEND` to make them available on the fly on a server", commented Claude Bruyas. The programs are started automatically using parameters stored in XML files: "With WINDEV, writing or parsing an XML document is easy", he said.

180,000 audio files a year: 1 TB of digital data!

The procedures executed as servi-



ces work 24/7 and process 180,000 audio files per year, which is 1 TB (1,000 GB of digital data a year). "With WINDEV, developing is always fast and it works right away without losing time meandering in system knowledge. The reliability of the applications is astounding, it's zero maintenance, and in our case, it's vital!" exclaimed Claude Bruyas.

"Commercial break in 5 seconds: WINDEV, You're on"

Amongst the different processes that revolve around the production of video and sound sources in EuroNews, managing the break for commercials is now automatic thanks to a service built with WINDEV. In fact, when there is a commercial break, commercials in all the countries have to begin simultaneously.

"The application reads from a server all the instructions needed to control the video server through an XML file. Using a multithreading process, I synchronize the commercial sequences that I have to display in parallel on the different channels (France, International, Africa, United States,...). WINDEV is fantastic in generating multithreading", says Claude Bruyas happily. "Image synchronization has to be extremely precise since there's an image every 1/25 of a second. All the services that were implemented with WINDEV (a dozen) are part of the production flow, they have to absolutely be 100% functional and reliable. Without WINDEV, I wouldn't have been able to be this productive and at ease when it comes to system reliability", he added.

