



SHELL: WinDev fuelling development!

In order to optimize its gas distribution management, the multinational oil company chose ICEB for its ERP system, developed in WinDev.



The company

Shell's industrial activity covers all aspects of the oil industry, from oil and gas prospecting to fuel delivery at gas stations and including exploration, transport, refining and also sale of a wide range of products to the general public. Shell Gas is a subsidiary company of the Anglo-Dutch group Royal Dutch/Shell and handles the LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) activity.



project, the choice of development tool was therefore strategic for

The ERP system also had to manage bottle return, tank maintenance (security) and tank filling percentages, provide real-time consumption forecasts based on temperature changes, etc. "MS SQL Server (over 350 tables) was chosen to manage the large amount of data and transactions among the headquarters in every country. Hyper File is also directly installed on the distributor's machine. Data consolidation is carried out by exporting data via text files. Hyper File's free deployment and high reliability were important arguments in our decision to use this tool extensively throughout the company", adds Bruno Seux.

are also very satisfied with access times. Some sites have passive terminals and access servers via TSE". Most of the time, delivery men are equipped with remote terminals that allow them to enter delivery information or to edit invoices on the spot. When they return to the warehouse, their terminal unit is connected to the central system in order to upload the data. It's child's play!

Online translation with WebDev

GBS is available all over the world, including Italy, Belgium, Romania, Spain, Holland, Great Britain, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Hong Kong, and many other countries. "PC SOFT

ICEB. "WinDev was the only platform offering both a wide range of features and real productivity. Without WinDev it is clear that the GBS project would have not met its objectives or even got off the ground", explains Bruno Seux.

There are two key types of gas management: bulk (tanks) and bottles. GBS handles both. All parameters had to be taken into account, from prospecting to invoicing not forgetting contracts and delivery and all this while respecting the various local rules and regulations.

500,000+ invoices: another WinDev performance!

In some countries, up to 500,000 invoices are processed each year. "WinDev was certainly up to this challenge, thanks to the performance of its Native SQL Server Access" according to Bruno Seux. He adds: "Offices accessing head-quarter data via secure connections



Project leader The GBS team at ICEB.

ICEB builds business administration software and is now a main player in the oil industry.

WinDev: quite simply a strategic choice!

ICEB's objective was to ensure full control over the management of the gas distribution chain. To date, solutions adopted by Shell Gas were either general ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning), or "in-house solutions".

For the GBS (Gas Business System)



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products make it much easier to implement an international strategy" comments Bruno Seux.

The ICEB technical staff has also developed an original solution by creating TTWeb with WebDev. This online software provides fast, efficient communication between customers and development teams. The customers are the ones who provide the most suitable translations. "Our team appreciates that it can concentrate on technical questions. With WebDev, we don't waste time writing miles of code lines and the site is operational within the set deadline" continues Bruno Seux.

AJAX and the AAF are of direct benefit to the user

GBS has evolved partly thanks to

the changes in WINDEV and WEBDEV: "In WebDev, AJAX is fabulous with the automatic features, the new fields. At a development level, our team has taken advantage of the major changes in WINDEV, particularly in terms of team development. It's a real advantage", stated Bruno Seux.

He added: "Our applications have become stricter. Version and branch management are allies to our strategy. Regarding the free technical support, it has really helped us thanks to its responsiveness and this has also helped us respect our deadlines".

WinDev: unlimited reserves... of ideas

Thanks to the success of GBS, ICEB is now attacking the oil industry.

Some processes developed for GBS will be re-used later. "The modular development offered by WinDev and the object-oriented programming allow us to re-use the code", comments Bruno Seux.

Rose Bates, Shell Gas (LPG) Global Information Technology Manager offers her conclusion on the results achieved with WinDev and WebDev: "We never ran into any development limits while accomplishing our objectives. WinDev is really totally adapted to large-scale projects. Without WinDev, we would never have reached our objectives".

GBS is available in 6 modules:

- CSC (Customer Service Center): a CRM module used to manage orders with automatic order creation, call centers, appointments, work schedules, messaging system, etc.
- CICS (Cylinder Information Capture System): a management module for clients or bottle retailers covering delivery routes, bottle inventory, accessories, vehicles and also payment control.
- BICS (Bulk Information Capture System): module for "bulk" customers with automatic order generation, delivery scheduling, payment control, tank management, etc.
- STOCS (Stock Transport Orders Cylinder filling System): module for headquarters and filling centers. It is used to manage and control inventory via product, tank and bottle movements (supplies, transport from refineries to depots, bulk inventory, bottles, accessories and vehicles).
- MACS (Maintenance Application Capture System): module dedicated to bulk management. This application controls each maintenance action performed on customer tanks. In addition to these 5 ERP modules, invoicing is integrated into the TIMS (Third Party Management System). Invoicing covers workflow between headquarter and regional distributors or agents and also between agents and clients. Commission calculation and deposit management are also part of the ERP. Activity report statistics and sales forecasts are available in all modules.

IMPRESSING NUMBERS!

This project needed over 800 man/months of development work. It includes:

- 500 SQL Server tables
- 350 Stored procedures
- 50 Hyper File tables
- 20 GB of data for just one country
- 200 users on one site
- 15 remote sites connected to headquarters
- 4000 queries
- 1400 windows
- 400 classes
- 900 printed reports
- 14 foreign languages
- 100% written in WLanguage.



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