

Case Study:



Meeting Database Needs in the Accounting Industry

Overview

Since 1981, INFORCE has been developing accounting software dedicated to companies and chartered accountant firms. In 1992, INFORCE changed its programming from running in a MS-DOS environment to running on Windows platforms. At that time, INFORCE decided they needed a fast, secure database to run on Windows platforms and use a minimal amount of hard drive space. INFORCE selected Birdstep's RDM Embedded database management system due to its speed, stability and limited use of RAM

After using Birdstep's database software for over ten years, INFORCE is upgrading to Birdstep's newest version of RDM Embedded to allow for easy migration to 32-bits.

"At a time when computer science is exploding, we appreciate finding products like Birdstep's RDM Embedded that are compact, but very effective," commented Eric Olivi, INFORCE.



Challenge

In 1992, INFORCE gathered together a team of specialized programmers to combine the best software tools available to create their new accounting software running on Windows platforms. The programmers' challenge was to find a rapid, secure database that left a maximum amount of hard drive space available.

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First, the database needed to be fast in order to quickly retrieve stored information and tables. Second, the database needed to provide security, so that the information stored in the database would not be lost or corrupted if the software program crashed. Third, the database needed to have a small footprint to be easily embedded in the software.

INFORCE's elite team of programmers examined their options and decided to buy a professional database. This would provide INFORCE with the reliability they required, as well as reduce their production time and ultimately their software development expenditures. The team evaluated several options including Oracle, MySQL and Birdstep Technology, which at the time was known as RAIMA.

Solution

The programmers chose to use Birdstep's RAIMA Database Manager, RDM Embedded, based on the optimisation of the database (requiring minimal hard

drive space and RAM), as well as the rapidity of the database, its solid performance, and security (no index table can be lost due to an auto-chaining feature). INFORCE's elite programmers also chose to use the C programming language with Birdstep's database because of its infinite possibilities, compatibility and long-term viability.

Birdstep's RDM Embedded database offered INFORCE a database that they could confidently insert in their software application, knowing that the database would remain invisible to the INFORCE end users.

In 2003, INFORCE decided to upgrade from 16 Bits to 32 Bits. Again, INFORCE chose to select Birdstep's Raima Database Manager, RDM Embedded, versus Oracle or MySQL server. In addition to the benefits that prompted INFORCE to select RDM Embedded the first time, INFORCE chose to upgrade to the latest version of RDM Embedded due to their past success with Embedded, and the prospect of a smooth migration to 32-bit. With the new project, INFORCE chose to use Microsoft's Visual .Net for the programming language. The complete migration of INFORCE's products to 32-bit (source + database) took less than six months.

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hard drive space, they are fast, very secure and allow for easy migration," said Eric Olivi, INFORCE. "We hope that the newest version of RDM Embedded will bring us as much satisfaction as the older version did."

Conclusion

For more than ten years, INFORCE and its end users have relied on Birdstep's RDM Embedded database to quickly retrieve data, securely store information, and continue to optimally perform over time without any decrease in performance. INFORCE was searching

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for a rapid, small footprint database with high performance. They found a successful fit with Birdstep's RDM Embedded database that has stood the test of time. RDM Embedded has proven itself to be a secure, reliable database that truly is invisible to the end user. Also, when INFORCE decided to update their product, they again chose to use Birdstep's RDM Embedded database because of its proven performance and easy migration.

With RDM Embedded's help, INFORCE has been able to create the fastest accounting software running on Windows in this generation.

About Birdstep Technology

Birdstep Technology was founded in Oslo, Norway in 1996 and is traded on the Norwegian OTC market under ticker "BIRD". The company has approximately 80 employees in Oslo and Seattle. Birdstep's small footprint, high performance database technologies combined with its wireless roaming and access software enables companies to build innovative solutions for embedded systems and the Mobile Internet. Birdstep makes your information accessible anytime, anywhere, on any device and on any infrastructure. For more information, visit www.birdstep.com.

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