



Case Study - Streamlined BI Administration



Automated Packaging Systems

Streetsboro, Ohio

SOLUTION USED: APOS ADMINISTRATOR

BACKGROUND:

Headquartered in Streetsboro, Ohio, **Automated Packaging Systems** is a global packaging supplier, with sales, service, and distribution offices located throughout North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia and Australia, and more than 30,000 packaging systems in operation worldwide.

Automated Packaging Systems provides total packaging solutions: they manufacture automated packaging equipment and equipment that fills, labels, and packages goods, as well as manufacturing and supplying the plastics for these processes. With nine manufacturing plants, Automated Packaging Systems produces more bags-on-a-roll and bagging systems than all of their competitors combined. With the industry's largest service organization, they are committed to delivering world class customer satisfaction.

Prior to the implementation of their ERP system and the purchase of SAP BusinessObjects, Automated Packaging Systems was a Crystal Reports only shop with about 3,000 reports in the system. However only between 500 and 800 were in active use. With the implementation of SAP BusinessObjects, they started to take advantage of Web Intelligence reports and to begin development of dashboards for executives and mobile BI for their sales force. From upper management through middle management down to daily operational users, APS personnel depend on the reporting capabilities provided by SAP BusinessObjects.

CHALLENGE:

Automated Packaging Systems faced numerous scheduling challenges. Regular and recurring schedules managed by the BI administration team number over a thousand, and many users manage their own schedules that cannot be set up as recurring schedules, because of irregular timing. Automated Packaging Systems Business Applications Manager George Georgiou told us:



Not all departments close their books at the same time in each period, so recurring schedules do not work. It's a matter of flexibility. Individual departments don't want to wait for other departments to close their books in order to run their period end reports, and would rather adjust scheduling to meet business workflow needs than adjust business processes to meet the needs of the software.

In the interest of being both efficient and effective, the BI administration team needed to find a way to update schedules quickly. According to George, "Each schedule requires three to five minutes to build manually with a complete email distribution list. If we had to do it manually, well, we just wouldn't."

SOLUTION:

Automated Packaging Systems implemented APOS Administrator to meet their scheduling needs, and scheduling failures have now become extremely rare. APOS Administrator's InfoScheduler module made it possible to make changes to schedules rapidly using simple copy-and-paste functionality. George told us that "completing these changes manually would require two or three full-time resources. The ability to copy between schedules is a huge time saver."

In addition, Administrator's Instance Manager has provided a wealth of information on their scheduling processes. BI technologists use Instance Manager whenever there is any question concerning a schedule's status. Form example, when the BI team is notified of an upcoming database update, they use Instance Manager to discover which schedules are due to run during the timeframe of the update, then pause the schedules until the database update is complete. Without Instance Manager, they would have to manage this process manually, and many schedules would likely fall through the cracks and fail, creating a large recovery task that would occupy the time of numerous resources.

Automated Packaging Systems is realizing even more benefits from their implementation of APOS Administrator. Administrator's Object Manager module is helping them perform bulk security management tasks such as database password changes quickly and accurately in bulk across large numbers of schedules.

George told us that they are continuing to explore ways in which APOS Administrator can free their BI administration resources from repetitive tasks and improve service to their information consumers.

WHY APOS?

The APOS Administrator solution met the immediate scheduling needs of the Automated Packaging Systems BI team, and the team continues to find ways that Administrator can help them streamline processes.



The BI team was also pleased with the professionalism of the APOS team during the solution implementation. Mike Osborn, a developer with Automated Packaging Systems, described the company's experience working with the APOS support team as "quite nice," and said that, since the initial implementation, they have not had to call APOS support at all. Once they had set up their schedules in APOS Administrator, they were able to begin to realize the benefits of the solution immediately.

Formed in 1992, APOS Systems is a global provider of solutions which enable well managed business intelligence. APOS solutions improve the return on your BI investment through enhanced BI platform management, providing automated and simplified administration, detailed platform auditing and monitoring, robust archive, backup and restore capabilities, enhanced content publishing and distribution, detailed BI query awareness and controls; and targeted solutions to speed and streamline your platform migrations.

APOS solutions simplify, automate, complement and extend your BI platform management practices.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Allan Pym, COO

519.666.2020 or apym@apos.com

APOS Systems Inc.

Head Office: 100 Conestoga College Blvd Suite 1101, Kitchener, Ontario Canada N2P 2N6 Tel:

519.894.2767 Fax: 519.894.1891

Email: apos@apos.com