
Industry:	Engineering / Manufacturing
ERP System:	BPCS
Solution:	Document Management

The Background –

Based in Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, UK, Jabsco is a worldwide leading manufacturer of products for the leisure marine market including water system, engine cooling pumps, searchlights and marine waste systems. Jabsco also manufactures industrial pumps for hygienic applications, fluid transfer in chemical processing, laboratory, paint processing, plating, and construction.

Jabsco is part of ITT Corporation Headquartered in White Plains, N.Y., the company employs approximately 40,000 people serving customers in more than 50 countries - ITT Corp generated \$9 billion in sales in 2007.

The Problem –

Jabsco run BPCS off a System i server based in North America. The challenge for the business was to source and implement a solution that was going to reduce the costs and increase the efficiencies surrounding the reformatting and distribution of all UK documents – a challenge that their legacy solution was not able to meet. Analyst and programmer from ITT Jabsco, Melanie Pash explains:

“ITT had a need to fax and email business documentation including Customer Order Acknowledgements, Despatch Advices and Purchase Orders. In particular we were concerned with reliability as our previous solution had proved inefficient.”

ITT Jabsco had previously used Cobwebb software for automated forms faxing and were familiar with their industry reputation for reliable functional software and high level of customer focus.

The Solution –

CPPD Document reformatting and distribution software

- CPPD/Print
- CPPD/Email
- CPPD/Fax

CPPD from Cobwebb Communications Ltd., is a System i resident, document management solution that facilitates and automates the reformatting, distribution and archiving of System i generated documents and reports.

Three of the CPPD modules, CPPD/Print, CPPD/Fax and CPPD/Email were installed. In short, for each document type (e.g. purchase orders, statements, etc.), CPPD reformats the spooled file and adds graphical elements, logos, etc., then queries the customer or supplier database for the preferred method of distribution. The resulting document is then despatched by printing and posting, fax or email. Melanie Pash adds:

“With the automated distribution of documentation we have the ability to email or fax. This has reduced manual input by users and the implementation of the email facility has provided a cost saving, while the reliability of the product has promoted confidence and increased efficiencies in the ERP system.”

Having a System i native application brings about a reliable, centralised and integrated solution. CPPD brings with it a clear audit trail from the point of receipt of the document either by a customer or supplier, etc. right the way back to the generation of the document by the ERP system.

The Implementation –

CPPD implementation is as efficient as the system itself. No additional hardware was required, so with Cobwebb working closely with the team at ITT Jabsco, the solution went in and was live within days.

Once configured, CPPD fully compliments the functions of the ERP system. There is no intervention by the user in the CPPD document reformatting and distribution process so the end result is the impression that the ERP system is handling the documents.

The document design and formatting process is made easy using the CPPD PC designer which facilitates:

- ‘Drag and Drop’ form elements on-screen until they are positioned correctly
- Upload and store the completed templates to the System i
- Exchange templates interactively for modification and updating
- Call and add data to existing output using exit programmes
- Intricate graphics such as logos and signatures
- Insert Bar Codes into forms
- Conditional formatting and distribution design

All the graphical overlays are designed using a MS Windows executable design package such as MS Word, Excel, etc. This means that all departments can get involved with designing the look and feel of the documents.

Once the design process is completed, the resulting reformatting templates are stored on the System i and are merged with data to create completed documents. Documents can be produced in batches or singly, and then distributed as required.

The Success –

ITT Jabsco’s own comments speak for themselves:

“We now have a fast and reliable process for providing customers and vendors with business documentation.

Local users have confidence and time savings mean they are able to focus on other business demands.”

CPPD has since helped facilitate the addition of another ITT Jabsco company brand. Running in tandem with the ERP system on System i means that adding companies and changing company information / branding is simple. As Melanie Pash testifies:

“Our Current ERP system is BPCS version 4.03. We are currently upgrading to ERP LX and will be implementing CPPD as part of the process. We are confident that CPPD will integrate as successfully with the new system as the old.”

The Next Step – Archiving

CPPD is a modular product which facilitates every step of document management. ITT Jabsco are able now to move into document archiving – both inbound and outbound with CPPD/DocStore Capture and CPPD/DocStore as well as sending data by XML to suppliers or customers with CPPD/XML.

Cobwebb Communications Ltd has been providing paperless process management solutions for the System i since 1985.

Now providing a complete System i Document Management Solution, the CPPD suite of products allows you to Capture, Create, Distribute and Archive documents electronically and directly from your ERP system.