

WINDEV inside HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL's stockings

This international association has implemented a solution that automates data exchange with its carrier in order to improve its annual delivery of over 600,000 Christmas tree bags.



Co-prix Nobel de la paix

The company

Handicap International is an international solidarity association that specializes in helping handicapped people. As a non-profit association, it intervenes in all contexts always on the side of the people with a handicap, to offer assistance and aid them in becoming more autonomous. Ever since its creation, the organization has implemented development programs in approximately 60 countries and it acts in many emergency situations. The Handicap International teams work towards helping the handicapped person find his or her autonomy, dignity and place in the community.

Project Leader



Hassan Bilal is the IS architect.



The generous Christmas tree bag

Since 1993, Handicap International has associated the "Christmas Tree Bag" to the Christmas tree tradition.

This bag decorates the bottom of the Christmas tree and protects the floor from the pine needles during Christmas season. Once the season is over it neatly packages the tree to be thrown away.

The Christmas Tree Bag is available in some countries in all food stores,



in department stores, flower shops and nurseries.

A good deal, the Christmas Tree Bag is sold at 5 euros from which 1.30 euros are given to Handicap International for handicap people.

Reducing costs: EDI with WINDEV

When the "Christmas Tree Bags" started being sold, orders were processed by a sales management software. Once the order had been taken the orders to be sent out were printed out, then the bundle of freight notes were sent by fax. The carrier (DHL) would have to re-enter all the delivery slips in order to prepare the order and ship the products to the customers. It then would invoice Handicap International in turn for this service.

"For us, a humanitarian association, the operating costs must be at their lowest. The only solution was to automate the data entry, using an EDI-based solution", explained Hassan Bilal. He then added "the software on the market did not meet our needs especially since our carrier used a proprietary file format. We had to develop a solution internally. We had a tool familiar to our teams but its interaction with office automation tools was cumbersome and the development time was long. Keeping in mind the cost control, we went for the WINDEV IDE, once we looked at its attractive price and its undeniable productivity. It was without doubt the best and the fastest tool for developing such an application".

WINDEV comes to the rescue of Progress and DHL

The objective was to create an interface between the legacy CRM application built with Progress within Handicap International and the transporters' services.

The user chooses the delivery orders that he wishes to send to the carrier by checking them on-screen.

Later when he decides to process the transfer of these batches, an email is sent to DHL with the attached file.

"The software generates a file in the EDI format expected by the carrier. I then simply used the 5GL



functions fWrite and EmailSendMessage. Setting the parameters for MS Exchange was also very easy to implement", continues Hassan Bilal.

Tracking down deliveries: over 600,00 Christmas Tree Bags

The delivery orders that were sent are stored on a Hyper File database.

Once the product has been delivered, the carrier sends a file with the delivery confirmation and the software automatically imports it to ensure customer follow-up.

"Just having an additional database on top of the CRM makes the procedure much easier. Hyper File is very flexible." Confided Hassan Bilal.

This way, at any given time Handicap International benefits from delivery tracking, and we can know in the blink of an eye where a package is located, if it has been delivered or in what warehouse it is.

"WINDEV answered all of our expectations and other developments are now in the pipeline", concluded Hassan Bilal.



Don't forget to buy your Christmas tree bag!

