



CASE STUDY: FULL STEAM AHEAD WITH DATAFLOW

When The Chamber of Shipping left its old UNIX accounting system, they opted for the power and versatility of Dataflow32.

NOT FOR PROFIT



UK CHAMBER
of SHIPPING

Since the issue of a Royal Charter back in the 19th Century, the Chamber of Shipping (the Chamber) has been providing firms with invaluable advice on a range of developments that affect the shipping industry.

The Chamber also promotes the shipping industry's interests to Government and commercial bodies, both in Britain and abroad.

As with most organisations, effective accounting and the provision of management information are essential to the smooth running of day-to-day operations.

As a member-funded institution, the Chamber requires an accounting system that provides flexibility, accuracy and transparency at all times.

As membership grew and new technologies entered the market, the Chamber came to the conclusion that their existing accounting system was no longer fit for purpose.

Tetra, the incumbent solution, was being run on a UNIX platform. Being a character-based system with a command line structure it was inflexible and placed restrictions on the Chamber's accounting processes.

The decision to replace their accounting solutions was a part of a larger initiative to upgrade The Chamber's business IT – both hardware and software – over a period of 3 years.

The restrictions being placed on the business as a result of the old system meant it had moved up in the priority list and was now a priority.

The criteria for a new system was simple. It would need to be a Windows based system that could handle multiple currencies and provide the Chamber with a powerful set of reporting and analytics tools.

“DATAFLOW WAS THE ONLY TRUE 32-BIT, WINDOWS-BASED ACCOUNTING SYSTEM WE FOUND THAT OFFERED THE COMBINATION OF FUNCTIONALITY AND FLEXIBILITY THAT WE WANTED.”

JEFFREY SMITH, CHIEF ACCOUNTANT,
THE CHAMBER OF SHIPPING

“I was surprised by the lack of genuine alternatives from the big players when it came to 32-bit Windows-based accounting packages” said Chief Accountant Jeffrey Smith. “When I discovered Dataflow it had the ideal mix of value-add features and robustness that we were looking for”.

The feature-rich Dataflow Financials package would provide a variety of benefits to the Chamber. Moreover, as the Chamber was responsible for the statutory year-end and management accounts for a number of maritime organisations, it would deliver timely and detailed accounting.

Dataflow provides The Chamber of Shipping with a new level of functionality and flexibility, helping to both simplify and improve the efficiency of their accounting processes.

DATA REPRESENTATION

As accountancy systems hold information critical to business, it is vital to have all information available at the touch of a button. Dataflow provides sort and search functions on any fields and navigation throughout the system is quick and easy.

OLE DRAG AND DROP TECHNOLOGY

With OLE and drag-and-drop functionality built in, Dataflow integrates seamlessly with Microsoft desktop applications.

GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

Powerful, flexible reports and analytics are available throughout. Dataflow provides a range of standard and custom report templates to help users visualise the breadth of information available.

CHART OF ACCOUNTS AND MANAGEMENT REPORTING

Using the Dataflow cost centre enabled the Chamber to reduce the number of nominal headings from over 2,000 to just 150. Not only does this make the process more manageable, but also produces better management reports in a fraction of the time it used to take.

CONSOLIDATION

As Dataflow is a true multi-company system, The Chamber of Shipping is able to move between group companies at the click of the mouse and consolidating several, or all, group companies anywhere within the system is a straightforward process.

MULTI-BASE CURRENCY

Dataflow is a truly multi-currency solution. Not only does it enable multi-currency transactions, it allows for the use of multiple base currencies too.

This permits the simultaneous reporting and analysis of the organisations financial performance in any currency it chooses. For example, the Chamber could view the current financial position in GBP, EUR and USD at the same time.

EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Transferring data from the old system was completed in less than a day. Once the manual process of checking the old data was complete, the upload took place at the click of a button.

“DATAFLOW IS AN EXTREMELY COST-EFFECTIVE SYSTEM. OTHER SYSTEMS, UP TO THREE OR FOUR TIMES MORE EXPENSIVE, DO NOT COME CLOSE TO MATCHING THE SPECIFICATION.”

Dataflow has been developed to provide users with powerful functionality within a user-friendly environment. It delivers complex accounting and sophisticated reporting using simple and effective procedures.

Dataflow backs its quality products with quality support. Whether it's on-site training during hand-over or post-implementation telephone support from the helpdesk, we place an emphasis on quality of service.

If you would like further information, please contact us on 0845 456 1020.

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