

IMPLEMENTATION AND CUSTOMIZATION OF COMPIERE ERP AND CRM**JK TECHNOSOFT'S ROLE**

The client was seeking competitive advantage for their business by embracing open source solutions throughout their IT infrastructure. Client decided to implement Compiere for its supply chain and warehouse management system for warehouses spread in different countries.

JKT was selected to deliver the project because of JKT's successful track record with the client for the past 3 years, JKT's technical expertise and knowledge about client's business, processes, reliability and cost-effectiveness.

The Project Includes:

- Building up the infrastructure for Compiere
- Interaction with business user for understanding of requirements
- Customization & implementation of Compiere
- Quality Assurance and automation of acceptance test engine
- Roll out and post implementation support

Client also hired consultants from Compiere EMEA for functional and Compiere specific consultancy and JKT consultants were involved in customization, testing, version migration and post implementation support.

DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT**Languages & Tools**

Compiere, Eclipse, Java/J2EE, Junit, Web Services, Enterprise Service bus, Service Mix, Active MQ, Linux, Sub version

Database & Appserver

JBoss, Oracle 10g

THE CLIENT

The client has been caring for people's eyes since 1984 and is UK's favorite optician with over 17 million registered customers. The client has more than 900 hundred stores in the UK, the Republic of Ireland, the Netherlands and other Scandinavian countries, all aiming to provide value for money professional eye care, a wide range of high quality spectacles and exclusive specialist support services. It has been voted Britain's most trusted brand of opticians by Reader's Digest.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

The client was in the process of opening / acquiring stores and warehouses across the globe. Client had a complex supply chain with distributed warehouses, multiple manufacturing units and sales stores spread out in various countries. The main business challenges were:

- Enable affordable global expansion without vendor lock-in and initial license fees associated with proprietary products.
- Implement an ERP system which can be used to monitor sales, purchase and inventory of warehouses and stores.
- Automate Sales and Purchase order
- Integration of material receipt with scanner.
- Import product from another system, import inventory count and level, etc.
- To establish communication between multiple instances of ERP and generate counter documents.
- Monitor purchases centrally
- Create a layer on top of an ERP to provide common functionality and implement regional specific business processes.
- The challenge is to identify the testing process, tools, type, characteristics needs to be followed for delivering the quality and effective product.

BENEFITS OF THE NEW SYSTEM

Compiere open source ERP was selected to implement supply chain and warehouse management solutions. It was integrated with other systems installed at Stores and Labs by customizing import and export functionalities of Compiere. It has improved the entire process of managing warehouse and its Sales and Purchase.

The main benefits were:

- Monitor Sales and purchase between store and labs.
- Manage the stock level of items
- Using customized replenishment algorithm and requisition generate purchase orders for items.
- Manage material receipt from Labs and shipment of items to stores
- Import vendor invoices and generate customer invoice
- Matching of prices between actual vendors invoices and purchase price list and update customer invoice.
- Facilitate Compiere ERP to automate the Sales / Purchase orders and Shipment / Receipt chain amongst Compiere instances running at multiple locations.
- Perform Auto-Purchasing, i.e. automatic creation of one or more Purchase Orders in Compiere (at head office) triggered by the completion of a Sales Order within Compiere at other location.
- Perform Auto-Forwarding of Material Receipts, i.e. the process by which Materials Shipments will be automatically created within an Organization, triggered by the completion of a corresponding Materials Receipt in the same / remote Organization.

METHODOLOGY USED

The current development is being carried out using Agile methodology (with Extreme Programming XP) including test driven and continuous integration approach. Some benefits of Agile methodology are as follows:

- Collaborating closely with customer and developers to reduce risk through tightening the feedback cycle and by improving communication via closer collaboration.
- Fully automated regression testing for remote Compiere instance using communication technologies like Service Mix, ActiveMQ along with JBoss Server.