

## Consumer Electronics Retailer Case Study

# SQDR Enables Retailer to Improve Productivity with Inventory Automation and Real-time Accessibility

This company is a discount retailer of consumer electronics with ten retail showrooms located in multiple states across the southern United States. At each retail and warehouse outlet, the company uses Window servers running Microsoft SQL Server to input and view inventory and sales data. The records from these locations were being transferred to the central IBM iSeries server using a commercially-available data capture tool.

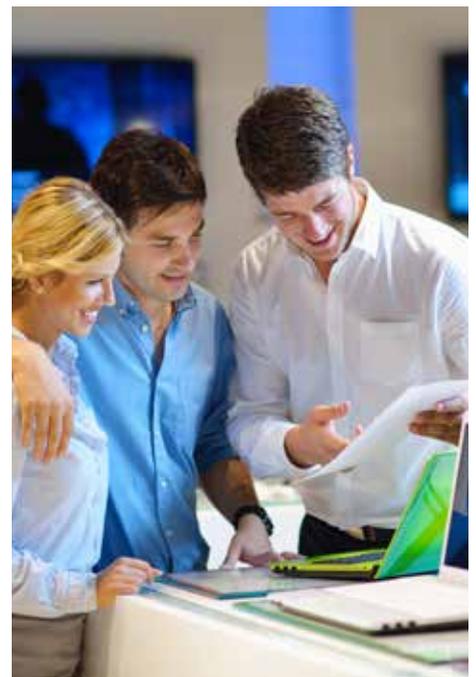
When large amounts of data was transferred, if the transfer was somehow interrupted, resynchronization of the database could take up to 48 hours. The system administrators would spend a tremendous amount of time manually verifying and entering the records. Additionally, all inventory information was not readily accessible to employees and customers during the re-synchronization process.

### RESULTS

**A 70% reduction in administrative time to verify inventory and sales data – real-time access now delivering better autonomy and accuracy**

**A “floating” network license removed the need to count and manage software licenses, a substantial time savings for the admin and procurement teams**

**Traded two expensive data transfer and inventory management point solutions for one integrated less expensive solution**



## Need

They needed a better unified system to more quickly access company-wide inventory and sales records on a real-time basis for its eight million dollar inventory. They also needed an automated and more efficient process to access data residing on the central IBM iSeries server from the various locations in order to monitor inventory and sales data in real-time.

## Solution

This company now employs **SQDR** for the IBM iSeries server and Microsoft SQL Server. The solution uses bi-directional replication to facilitate the exchange of inventory data between the warehouse systems and the stores. **SQDR** provides incremental replication which reduces the amount of data that is transferred. In addition, it allows the replication to occur more quickly and frequently.

## Benefits

**Resynchronization takes hours, not days.** **SQDR** extracts changes in inventory and then inserts, updates, and deletes the destination data as appropriate to keep it mirrored with the source data. This way the business is not halted while a database batch resynchronization occurs.

**Verifying data no longer requires manual intervention.** By employing **SQDR**, the most significant benefit has been a 70% reduction in DBAs administrative time to verify data.

**Effortless access to the latest sales reports.** With minimal overhead on the IBM iSeries server, inventory and sales data is replicated in real-time, allowing for current inventory reports from all locations, generated independently of data updates. **SQDR** automatically manages the data transfer from multiple locations, enabling reports to be generated directly from the iSeries server.

**Straightforward installation.** Even with multiple locations using both 32- and 64-bit environments, the **SQDR** implementation took less than two days. **SQDR** is simple to navigate and runs on a standard Windows system.

**Competitive pricing model.** Before StarQuest, this company struggled with an expensive, inefficient data transfer tool. The **SQDR** license model, which is based on a floating license and concurrent users, is the most economical solution available, especially when compared to other inventory management products on the market.

**StarQuest** has been a leading provider of database connectivity products since 1994. StarQuest products use open standards to maximize compatibility and interoperability within an enterprise network. StarQuest is an active member of The Open Group software industry consortium, which was responsible for the adoption of DRDA as an industry standard for database interoperability. The StarQuest technology takes full advantage of open-standards such as DRDA, SQL, ODBC, and JDBC.

For more information and for pricing information please visit <http://www.starquest.com> or call +1 415-669-9619

