

US Foods Case Study

SQDR's Real-time Efficiencies Keep Orders and Operations Flowing

US Foods is one of America's largest food processing and distributor companies, serving independent and multi-unit restaurants, healthcare, hospitality, government and educational institutions. US Foods offers more than 350,000 products and they employ approximately 25,000 people in more than 60 locations nationwide. They operate stockyards and food processing plants across the United States, processing nearly 70,000 transactions daily between each processing plant and headquarters.

The Stockyards division consists of a network of production sites where meat and fish products are labeled and processed for national retail and hospitality customers. Before StarQuest, sales orders were sent in a single batch from the national headquarters to all processing facilities, and once the orders were processed, the inventory transaction details were sent back to headquarters. However, if the network connection was compromised in any way, orders would get backlogged, and worse, production would cease. SQDR minimized processing time and enabled processing to continue even with failed network connections.



US Foods
Rosemont, IL
www.usfoods.com



RESULTS

Having immediate access to order data speeds production at individual locations

Real-time continual connectivity with SQDR keeps production flowing

Proactive email notifications help thwart potential issues



Need

All data from the local production floors was directly connected to the national mainframe iSeries database. Because of the dependency on the network, any break within the network created a backlog of orders. Data could not be transferred when the network was down and would cease production at all seven facilities until the connectivity was resolved. Therefore, this company needed a reliable and instantaneous solution to send inventory data to the main computer system that was not dependent on a continuous network connection.

Solution

SQDR is now deployed at each processing facility with a Windows-based middle tier that connects to the mainframe iSeries. Proactive email notifications are configured to alert DBAs to any potential connectivity issues. The scales on the production floor record a variety of processing information such as weight, country of origin and ingredient descriptions. The scale data is sent to a local 64-bit Windows-based SQL middle tier, then passed up to the national headquarters' iSeries mainframe. From headquarters, the daily orders are sent to each individual cutting facility. **SQDR** minimized processing time and enabled processing to continue even with failed network connections.

Benefits

Production Can Begin Immediately

SQDR has allowed this company to send concise regional order lists to each of the facilities instead of transmitting a cumbersome national order list. The facilities can now begin production immediately rather than sorting through a master list.

Headquarters Can Stay in Business

If the network goes down at a particular processing location, headquarters can continue to send specific orders to other facilities independently.

Total Production Never Backlogs

Although the data replication occurs immediately, if there is a break in network connectivity between the iSeries and the local SQL servers, production can continue uninterrupted on the processing floor. The processing data is staged on the SQL server until the data connection is resolved, then sent to the iSeries.

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

