

timeXtender®



JP Group

CUSTOMER STORY



“timeXtender is a fantastic extraction tool, which we simply could not manage without”

“Previously, extracting and converting data for our Targit BI system, which we did twice daily from all the different basic systems we use in the group, was a major and complicated task. But now, where we use timeXtender for this task, it only takes me a few minutes each time. And this is true of all the other tasks, where we have to extract and transfer data between different IT applications. “So it is a fantastic tool, which we have now used for three years, and which became completely indispensable long ago.”

Says Flemming Andersen, who is the IT Manager for the JP Group industrial group in Viborg, who manufacture, import and sell spare parts for a number of the best known makes of car and, increasingly, also for trains, buses and industrial plant equipment. It is thus an international group, with more than 99% of their revenue coming from export. Since the beginning in 1962 the group has expanded with even more business areas, so that today it consists of no less than seven financially and legally independent companies. They all share their headquarters at the same location in Viborg and they have a joint IT Department, where IT Manager Flemming Andersen, who has more than 20 years of IT experience and a background as a computer programmer, has the day-to-day responsibility for ensuring that all of the group’s many IT applications operate as they should for the benefit of the almost 70 users in Denmark and the seven users abroad. He therefore has sole responsibility – with back-up-assistance from the group’s IT supplier – for both the procurement, operation and support of all hardware and software in the

group, where the most important applications are the two ERP systems; the Windows based MS Dynamics XAL from Microsoft and the IBM i-Series based system Futura with a common Business Intelligence solution, the Danish Targit from the North Jutland company of the same name.

No more coding by hand

Targit BI is used for both the daily management reporting and to prepare statistics and analyses for areas such as sales, purchasing, orders, production and finance, both for the group as a whole and on a product, departmental and country level.

Targit is thus the critical management tool for the group and it is a BI tool which the company is thoroughly satisfied with. But until the company began using timeXtender in 2006, Flemming Andersen was heavily burdened by having to provide the updated basic data which Targit must use as input. He explains:

“Twice a day we had to both fetch and convert data in Targit, not just from the two ERP applications, but also from a large number of Excel tables, a number of Access databases and a number of comma separated text files; and at that time this was done purely by ‘coding by hand’ in a very technical and time-consuming manner and in an IT set-up where we were forced to shut down our users for 60 minutes every time there were data transfers.”

“With timeXtender it now takes 30 seconds to carry out a price analysis – instead of 5-6 hours.”

Flemming Andersen, IT Manager, JP Group

Quick change from SQL 2000 to SQL 2005

The cumbersome ‘coding by hand’ continued until the beginning of 2006. But here the company was forced by Microsoft’s product strategy to a technically very cumbersome conversion of the group’s central databases from Microsoft SQL Server 2000 to Microsoft SQL Server 2005, where all data packages had to be converted from DTS format to SSIS format. Fortunately, it was here that timeXtender appeared with their timeXtender extraction or ETL tool. And this was a convincing experience, remembers Flemming Andersen:

“We are among the first to have the new tool presented. So I was probably a little sceptical. But not many minutes went by before it was clear that this was just what we needed. Namely a general, user-friendly tool, which could both solve the current task of converting from Microsoft SQL Server 2000 to Microsoft SQL Server 2005, and which could also fetch data from all the other ‘platforms’ where we have data stored, including IBM’s DB2 database.”

The SQL conversion, which Flemming Andersen had feared would be extremely onerous, was done without problems, he remembers: “We were only down for a few hours and at a time of day where the users did not notice anything. It just went so fast that I had



never seen anything like it in my 20 years of working with IT. The whole process took two days, where I was working together with a timeXtender consultant. If I had had to do it in the “normal” way, I would think it would have taken 1-2 weeks.”

No more inconvenience

Flemming Andersen was therefore not in doubt and quickly convinced the company management that they should purchase timeXtender. And this also marked the end of cumbersome daily data transfers to Targit:

“It only took timeXtender two days to put the solution into operation and I spent two days on a training course with them so I could become a certified timeXtender user, just as their own people and their distributor’s people, in our case people from Logica, are. And the whole thing just ran as they had claimed it would, as it has ever since, so it only takes around 25 minutes each day to move the data required from the many different data sources we have over to Targit. Previously it could easily come to take an hour each time.” This data transfer takes place without programming – it just requires a few clicks, and it is so problem-free that Flemming Andersen cannot remember when he has last had to ring to the distributor Logica for help. So as for a support agreement – he does not have any.

Previously: 6 hours - Now: 30 seconds

With timeXtender Flemming Andersen is thereby free of a cumbersome and time-consuming daily programming task. But there also many other ways in which timeXtender has provided important benefits and saved very large amounts of time. He says: “We bought timeXtender primarily to be able to support Targit. But in truth also because it is a very versatile tool, which we could use in all the oth-

er tasks we had to extract and transfer data between different IT applications in a secure and fast manner. For example, I use it to place data from our basic systems in our web shop and to make electronic and tailor-made

product catalogues for the individual salesmen and countries, so that the catalogues, which are saved on their laptops, only contain precisely the products that are relevant for them.

And we use it to conduct price analyses where we fetch data from both Excel, i-Series and text files, so that an analysis only takes 30 seconds now for 15,000 product codes, as against 5-6 hours previously.” “So timeXtender has led to many improvements in our company, both as far as efficiency, quality of data and not least time consumption are concerned,” concludes IT Manager Flemming Andersen.



About timeXtender:

timeXtender® is a world leading vendor of agile ETL and data warehousing software dedicated to the Microsoft® SQL Server® platform. timeXtender was named Microsoft ISV Partner of the Year in Denmark in both 2010 and 2008. More than 1500 satisfied customers in 29 countries can't be wrong.

www.timextender.com

About JP Group:

JP Group is a Danish industrial group, which develops, manufactures and imports and exports spare parts for the car manufacturers VW, Audi, Seat, Skoda, Opel, GM, Ford, Mercedes and Porsche.

During recent years production has also been expanded with parts for trains, buses and subcontractor work.

A large part of the spare parts are purchased from sub suppliers abroad, but all products are finalized in Viborg to ensure the high level of quality, which is JP Group's trademark and which customers demand. JP Group is ISO 9001 certified and has its headquarters in Viborg. The Group consists of seven independent limited companies with a total of 140 employees as of August 2009. The Group was founded in 1962 of Johannes Pedersen.

www.jpgroup.dk

