Information EYE

GCOS 7 to Windows Migrated Systems "Just Screaming" at Gopher

Gopher Electronics, of St. Paul, Minnesota, successfully completed a 6.5 month migration of all their GCOS 7 applications in mid-June, 2003, to become the first customer to go into full production with the GDT Thin Client solution. The results are best summed up by the customer themselves. Here is the feedback received from Jerry Westmoreland, Systems Administrator, at Gopher:

"Sorts used to take 7 to 8 minutes. We had a couple of TPRs that would take 45 seconds, to 1 minute, to load the initial screen. Now the system is just screaming. Sorts take seconds instead of minutes. Those 2 TPRs take 3 to 4 seconds to load now. All of the other screens are almost instantaneous. The biggest change came in the batch processing. Below is a chart with the run times of some of our processes. There were 2 other processes I ran on the Bull, but wouldn't run them very often, because they ran so long. One has actually never run to completion. I would start it in the morning and it would run all day, then kill it before leaving for the day, because I didn't want it to run overnight. I ran it on GDT. It completed in 7 minutes. The other one was similar in that it would take all day to run. It took 3 minutes on GDT. When I first started running these jobs, **I thought something was wrong; there was no way they could run that fast, so I would check the output and make sure all of the files were being updated. Everything looked fine. Even after running on the new system for a few days, it is still hard to believe things are running this fast."**

The server Gopher is using is a Dell dual Intel Xeon processor system running Windows 2000 Server.

The GDT Thin Client solution provides a web browser based interface for the migrated GCOS 7 applications. This avoids both system load and maintenance at the desktop, resulting in a faster and commodity user interface. The GDT migration solution provides a quick and effective method for migrating complete GCOS 7 applications to Windows or UNIX with minimal, or usually, no program changes. InfoSol provided the services to perform the initial migration of all the source items and Gopher Electronics performed the system acceptance and parallel testing themselves.

	Bull (in seconds)	GDT (in seconds)
Receiving	600	27
Packing slips	300	7
Buy reports	1200	52
Purchase orders	300	4
Billing	840	20

Gopher Electronics now plans to enhance some of its applications with more point-and-click graphical web interfaces, and to gradually re-engineer these applications over the next few years. The Windows based platform, using Micro Focus Net Express, with Net Express GDT components will make this task much more efficient.

Gopher Electronics is a 51-year-old privately-held, industrial electronic distributor with primary focus on customer service, specializing in sensors and electromechanical components. In addition, Gopher terminates flat flexible cables, ribbon cable, and flexible printed circuitry (membrane switches) to customer specifications.

Gopher Electronics has a very diverse customer base with over 2,500 customers within a primary area of Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota and Western Wisconsin.

**Gopher's on-line applications were migrated to Windows 2000 using
GDT Thin Client with no changes to the source programs.**

KEY SPECIFICS

- Entire project took 7 months start to finish. In production June 2003.
- Used GDT Thin Client with embedded emulator in web browser.
- Phenomenal increase in speed of batch processing.
- Included support of 72 line screens.