

The Business

The Fantoni Group is involved in all aspects of product design. From the creation of new materials to their use in an innovative and dynamic workplace. From the research and development of the raw materials to the finished products, the Fantoni team provides tireless teamwork in pursuit of total design. All of this is accomplished through extensive experience, perfected knowledge and the constant pursuit of innovation in architecture, research, product synergy and respecting and protecting the environment.

Among the products developed by Fantoni are: office furniture, panels, walls, melamine panels and papers, laminates, floorings, sound-deadening panels, resins etc.

The Challenge

IBM has always been a major component of the Fantoni Group's technological infrastructures. The AS/400, today known as the IBM iSeries, is the strategic core of the Company's information system. A constant internal evolution drove EDP to build an informative proprietary system and to keep it current, throughout the change requirements of modern IT. The need to adapt a critical part of its information system to be Y2K compatible, together with the production of a new graphic interface, drove EDP to find a new development solution.

The choice of eDeveloper was based on its core strengths short development time even with complex solutions, integration with the existing databases, same time development environment for Client/Server and Web solutions, reliability, quick

maintenance, and constant support of emerging technologies.

eDeveloper immediately became the winning choice because it allowed quick updating of applications and management processes from a green-screen environment to a Client/Server solution, keeping intact the DB2/400 database.

Since 1997, EDP of Fantoni Group, with assistance initially from Magic Italia and later by local Magic partners, has improved and updated the company's information system maintaining its efficiency while reducing dramatically the maintenance costs, and the development of new processes. The Fantoni Group's IT architecture (head office and three remote locations) is composed of 1 IBM AS/400, 2 IBM iSeries and 25 servers (in remote and local networks), with over 280 Clients. The Web application's infrastructure is managed by internal human resources and it uses advanced technologies for its security measures (LDAP, iChain, centralized antivirus).

The Solution

The actual requirements of the company, was to develop a Web based solution to develop its information system and to integrate the companies back-end. eDeveloper's extensive and proven expertise in this area convinced EDP that it was their optimum solution. The solution partners **Jo Soft** and **2B Soft**, strategic advisers in the applicative and management area of Fantoni Group, developed in an extremely short time frame a solution answering all of the "supply chain management" challenges which significantly improved the existing

processes. The success of this solution and the fantastic outcome and performance of the Supply Chain application persuaded EDP to choose eDeveloper to develop its web applications.

The presence of SAP in the Company's environment, was an additional test in which eDeveloper showed powerful integration capabilities in a complex structure. eDeveloper enabled SAP processing with many complex and advanced IBM iSeries technologies.

The new technologies and functionalities that is available with the latest eDeveloper version 9.4 has convinced EDP to study the feasibility of upgrading to this new release (today 90% of EDP's Client/Server programs are developed in Magic 8.3). The successful results of this testing has allowed EDP to immediately begin the upgrading process.

Quote

"Thanks to eDeveloper, Magic's powerful and versatile tool, developed for the iSeries platforms, that are always technologically advanced, and supported by professional solution partners, the company can work in a more integrated way and offer quick and efficient service to the end user".

G. Rossi, IT Manager of Fantoni Group

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