

## Case Study

### IT Recycling Company

#### Microsoft Visual Basic 6 and SQL Server Legacy Application



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## The Challenge

The company uses an internal application to manage all stages of their operations. This has been developed by a number of programmers over many years and runs under Visual Basic 6 with a SQL Server 7 data back end. Whilst acknowledging that the system needs redeveloping in a more up to date product in the future, the current system must still be maintained and developed.

## The Solution

The main features of the system are:

- Tracking of items of IT equipment from notification that they are to be received, through receipt, testing, data-wiping, to sale or eco-friendly disposal.
- Integration with ecommerce systems
- Integration with various delivery companies systems
- Integration with Sage Accounts system
- Reporting using excel spreadsheets/crystal reports

After a thorough familiarization with the legacy system, its main functions and data structures were documented. A mirror system was set up on our internal servers so development could be carried out and tested offline.

The strategy has been to gradually improve and develop the system, as modifications are required. If a new module is required this has been developed using Visual Studio and integrated into the existing VB6 system. Functions have been extracted out into stored procedures when changes were required and the process speeded up, in cases by 100 times. The database has been converted from SQL7 to SQL 2005. As the existing version of Crystal Reporting that the company was using could not interface with SQL 2005, the reports were redeveloped using SQL Reporting Services.

## The Benefits

- The use of external consultants allowed the cost effective development of the system without needing to employ a full time developer
- The gradual approach to upgrading has avoided the company having to invest a large capital expenditure in one year.

## The Technologies

- Microsoft Visual Basic 6
- Microsoft SQL Server 7
- Microsoft VB.NET
- Microsoft SQL Server 2005
- SQL Reporting Services