



"Making the most of their spool file data"

"RouteOne has revolutionised the way we run our operations and reporting within the company. It has reduced the number of bespoke queries as most people now manipulate their data from within Excel. Excellent Value." Gary Holmes

Business Issues

Glynwed Pipe Systems produces a large number of daily, weekly and monthly iSeries reports. These were originally printed and distributed internally providing information for everyone from the top-level managers to the personnel on the shop floor. The IT departments spent at least two hours each day producing and distributing the daily reports and considerably more time at each week and month end.

In some of the departments this data was being re keyed into an Excel spreadsheets to satisfy the increasing number of requests for the information to be made available in that format. Users were also requesting that the information be supplied in other PC formats, particularly Access and PDF. In short the whole process was becoming more labour intensive, repetitive and time consuming and when the users received the information it was already out-of-date.

To alleviate this situation the decision was taken to purchase RouteOne.

One of the initial requirements for RouteOne was to convert up to 80 daily reports into Excel worksheets, Access database tables or a PDF documents. The IT department implemented a solution where a number of templates were created to take each spool file, transfer the relevant information and create and distribute the relevant PC file.

As an example, extracts were scheduled to run individually or as part of a RouteOne procedure from within a scheduler or, alternatively, included in CL routines. The requests ran overnight to enable RouteOne to pick up the latest, most relevant spool file based on pre-defined selection criteria. Excel spreadsheets were created and populated and macros were ran to format the spreadsheets' presentation. The spreadsheets were then either emailed to individual users or placed in a relevant folder on the network for users to access.

The end users now had up-to-date information in an Excel worksheet available as soon as they arrived in the morning. This ready availability of data broadened the users ability to analyse it and enabled them to make better-informed business decisions.

There have been significant savings made in both human resources and in stationery costs that has more than offset the initial cost of RouteOne.

Following on from this successful implementation a number of the weekly and monthly reports have also been converted.

Such are the benefits gained by the users that the IT department have now included a number of front end options for ad hoc spool file processing including asking the user to choose whether to print the report or transfer to the relevant PC format. The extracted data is automatically emailed to the person who requested the report based on the users iSeries profile.

In addition to spool file extracts RouteOne is also used to extract data from database files for a wide range of applications. For example, providing users with detailed information about Despatch analysis, VAT records, Production, Purchasing and Sales Analysis.

Glynwed now take advantage of the additional output formats available including SQL, Text and DB2.

Glynwed Pipe Systems have gained so many benefits from using RouteOne that is now an integral part of their operating procedures with over 350 extracts defined.