



CLARINS Switzerland: WINDEV takes care of its export

CLARINS' Swiss branch has chosen the WINDEV IDE for its internal development. The export shipping management project is the precursor of several projects that are based on a client/server architecture using an AS/400.



The company

The French family business CLARINS reached an international dimension at the beginning of the 70s, and it signed its first contracts with exclusive agents abroad.

The first branches started in the 80s, first in the United States in January 1981. In 2007, the Clarins Group, consists of 20 distribution subsidiaries, over 150 countries, with over 6000 people with annual revenues of nearly one billion euros. CLARINS Suisse (CLARINS Switzerland) is one of these branches.

For our beauty, CLARINS conceives products that give preference to 100% natural ingredients: face and body care, tanning, make-up, male care and recently CLARINS perfumes.

From the wonderful alliance between Clarins and the talented creator Thierry Mulger, and later Azzaro, great fragrances were born.



Project Management

Jean-Louis Bellevergue is responsible for computer software within CLARINS Switzerland.

WINDEV to optimize the AS/400

"All our applications

are mostly and historically on our AS/400. Whether they are internal developments using RPG or commercial software packages. When we studied the possibility of uniting all the data contained in the AS/400 as well as the one stored in the office automation tools, WINDEV seemed like the most reasonable choice. In fact, we had a strict deadline to produce new applications. It had to be up and running quickly and it had to take into account the

development team's profile", declared Jean-Louis Bellevergue. "The ease of development inherent in WINDEV and its AS/400 native access played in its favor", he added.



Export shipment follow-up

Product export not only targets the duty free market for Europe, but also the reseller market abroad. Before the computer department implemented an application to centralize the data for the follow-up of foreign shipment, the warehouse manager kept information on Excel and would send his data to the export manager, who was in charge of billing.

The objective was therefore to automate both tasks.

The application brings some added value in term of insight into the administrative tasks and into orders being prepared.

The sweet smell of success thanks to WINDEV 5GL

"The creation of the UI is an undeniable advantage of WINDEV. To be able to create your screens in a WYSIWYG environment, to easily define a control's properties, to have a simple link to the data in the AS/400, brought us efficiency without comparison", states the computer software manager.

"For those in our team who programmed in RPG, programming with the WINDEV 5GL highly interested them since learning it was very fast. With the ability to program more clearly and concisely, there's no need to use object oriented programming and the developer can easily find his way".

Printing with the greatest care

Today, the centralized database can be consulted and modified by all parties depending on their rights. The gain in time can also be valued when printing all the administrative files, such as the delivery orders that go along with the products that are exported (content of the order within the package, weight/volume, instructions regarding shipping,



potential special handling instructions). *"The Report editor has been appreciated by the team because of its ease of use and its effectiveness in producing quality printouts",* admitted Jean-Louis Bellevergue.

In view of the positive outlook on the shipping management application other projects have been implemented, such as Swiss client management. This project groups information, which, until now, was spread out over several sources (AS/400 files, Excel spreadsheets, paper documents) and was maintained by different contributors: Management, Sales, Marketing.

"The experience of developing with WINDEV's IDE has made us realize how much faster we could get things done, and it has also made us want to develop several projects or adapt our existing software to our needs. Between continuing to develop in RPG and choosing a complex technology, WINDEV comforts us in the idea that there's no need to wait and that we have no time to lose either. WINDEV is the best choice in a context of productivity and reliability", concluded Jean-Louis Bellevergue.

