SUCCESS STORY

Grand Alliance Service Centre Project

GASC's Business :

The Grand Alliance Service Center, (GASC) is a consortium comprising of the 5 major shipping line owners of the world i.e. Hapag-Lloyd, MISC, NYK, OOCL, P&O Nedlloyd and OOCL. With its combined fleet force of over 100 vessels, GASC offers 15 shipping services, covering Europe Asia, Trans Altantic and Pendulum services. GASC's office in Hong Kong acts as a control command center for the line members to collaborate and co-ordinate their joint global container shipping operations.

The Challenge :

With the formation of the Grand Alliance, increasing demands were made for more effective planning and control measures to facilitate effective decision making at the operations, financial and management levels. To do this, it became increasing urgent that an integrated and comprehensive scheduling and financial system was needed that could help towards scheduling of vessels and the settlement of costs between line members in their container shipping operations.

In view of the complex nature of vessel scheduling, it was necessary to keep an accurate record of each voyage in terms of the planned, coastal and actual sailing data. In view of sudden unanticipated changes that happen to plans in the real world, it was necessary to allow a good deal of flexibility in the schedule generation processes.

With the introduction of new services, some of which were complex in nature the collation and preparation of financial data proved a mammoth task when done manually and was prone to mistakes.

The Solution :

The system development comprised of two major sub-systems i.e.

- Scheduling Module – This comprises of set up of Proforma Schedules and Long Term Schedules for each service, deployment of vessels into different services and tracking plan versus actual vessel schedules, update of Coastal, Regional Departure, Terminal Performance transactions. This model handles both GASC's own European and American services as well as Atlantic Cooperation services which GASC jointly operates in conjunction with external shipping lines.

- Financial Settlement Module – which helps cost component calculations and cost sharing between member lines. Functions developed involved derivation of Loop Allocation Shares, Voyage Cost, Slot Provision and Buy/Sell Settlements.

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Services Completed

The system was delivered in three phases, Phase 1 comprising of Scheduling Module, Phase 2 for Financial Settlement Module and Phase 3 for Atlantic Model.

System Analysis, Functional Specifications, Database Design, Programming, User Acceptance Testing, Training and Implementation.

Technologies Used

The application was developed using Powerbuilder as the front-end, PL/SQL as the business logic tier and Oracle as the back-end engine.

The system has been fully developed and is currently under annual maintenance. Since the system is huge, there are numerous requests for enhancements and support issues that are received from the customer. GASC has been on maintenance for Year 2001 and 2002. They have already signed up for Year 2003's maintenance agreement.

Business Results Achieved

- Reductions of manual data preparation and entry on Regional Departure Report, Coastal and Terminal Performance Report inputs.
- Overcome tedious collation of data from various data sources to crunch various management, financial, operations reports.
- Detail analysis on each voyage details, cause of delay, statistics became accessible for quick management decision making enabling effective control.
- Accurate monitoring of vessel schedules to alert Operations on off schedule vessels enabling effective control of vessel movement according to plan.

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