



Checkmate International Assures Food Safety Compliance with PointBase Micro

Checkmate International is one of the world's largest independent consulting, certification and inspection companies in the food industry. Driven by today's growing concerns over the safety of consumables, Checkmate offers a range of services and technologies to ensure that hotel, leisure and food service operators remain compliant with food, premises and health safety regulations.

To properly gather and analyze vital data on food service facilities, inspectors require a sophisticated and complete audit capture system for collecting information. Checkmate has created a comprehensive application capable of gathering the information needed to verify standards compliance and store that information for regular synchronization with central databases.

Originally, Checkmate relied on a proprietary data storage structure, written specifically to run on Psion[®] computing devices. However, this became difficult to integrate with corporate back-end databases and was prone to data corruption. To resolve these problems, Checkmate has now switched to PointBase Micro, a platform-independent relational database optimized for mobile environments. Delivering Java-based portability, an ultra-compact footprint and comprehensive security, PointBase Micro offers Checkmate stable data collection support and rapid turnaround for inspection reports.

"We have seen dramatic improvements in our responsiveness and reporting to clients since making the switch to PointBase."

Jon Ley, Development Manager, Checkmate International

Creating a More Efficient Audit Environment

Checkmate's priority was to improve the efficiency and useability of its audit capture system. "A robust mobile database was needed to increase our auditors' confidence in mobile technologies and allow a greater proportion of audits to be captured electronically," said Jon Ley, Development Manager at Checkmate. "This, in turn, would facilitate more consistency in our data and greater professionalism in our reports to clients."

The company also wanted a database that was SQL-compliant and had the portability of Java, in order to reduce the firm's dependence on Psion technology. In order to perform inspections quickly and extremely accurately, inspectors required a high-performance mobile data management system that synchronized easily with corporate databases.

"In our business, a reliable, flexible data collection system is of paramount importance. PointBase Micro gave us the power we needed in an extraordinarily small footprint."

PointBase Micro helped Checkmate to meet a number of important business objectives, including:

- A consistent flow of information to and from field personnel
- Data collection and processing times reduced from 8-10 days to as little as 2 days, for better customer service
- Well presented, consistent reports in a unified information format
- Reduced administrative costs due to electronic report filing
- A more productive mobile workforce that is free to concentrate on information gathering

Improved Productivity and Faster Client Response

Today, Checkmate uses PointBase Micro as the foundation of a stable audit capture system that is reliable, has a high quality of information and is much faster than it used to be. "Because of the higher proportion of audits being captured electronically, the turnaround time between completion of the audit and providing the results to the client has typically been reduced to two days," said Ley. "When audits were not captured electronically, the handwritten report had to be posted back to the office for typing into our back-end system, a process that can take at least a week. For many of our clients, this rapid performance is a major reason for selecting Checkmate."

The company has also found that it is much easier to support its audit capture application on a day-to-day basis, thanks to PointBase Micro's SQL compliance, which allows updates to be sent out to users as SQL script files to amend their static data.

"In the future, we plan to extend the use of this system into other sectors of our client base, such as agriculture, produce, livestock, food processing, food packaging and wholesale and distribution," Ley concluded. "PointBase has given us the ability to offer the convenience of electronic audit capture to many more of our clients."

Key Benefits to Checkmate:

- A robust, reliable mobile configuration for audit capture of vital food safety information
- Cross-platform support for heterogeneous environments
- High-performance information submission to improve service to clients
- Powerful data protection in the event of a system failure

Checkmate Products Using PointBase Micro:

- Mobile Audit Capture System (MAX)



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