



PointBase Micro Improves Extensity's Mobile ROI

Extensity, a part of Geac Computer Corporation Limited, is a major provider of Internet-based applications for employee-based financial processes. Maintaining an impressive client base with more than one million seats, Extensity offers a suite of applications for notebooks – including automated expense reports, timesheets, procurement and travel planning software – to keep mobile workforces productive and efficient. By utilizing these products, mobile and remote employees can spend more time and effort on higher-value business tasks, corporate IT can focus on rapid return on investment and the corporation can focus on greater profitability.

In order to be effective, however, such applications must be supported by databases that remain fully functional away from the corporate network. These local databases allow mobile workers to create, edit and manage local data on the road, while utilizing corporate information to maximize business opportunities.

To accomplish these goals, Extensity utilizes PointBase Micro, a platform-independent relational database optimized for mobile environments. Delivering Java-based portability on the J2SE™ platform, an ultra-compact footprint and comprehensive security, PointBase Micro offers Extensity a small but powerful database for managing information on mobile devices that can easily synchronize with corporate databases.

"PointBase helped Extensity's employee relationship management applications shrink reporting and billing times from 22 days to only three."

- A.G. Lambert, Senior Director of Product Marketing, Geac

Improving Data Management in Mobile Environments

Extensity's main goal was to implement a new mobile data management solution that had a small footprint, remained JDBC-compliant and provided high performance. "We work with customers that utilize a wide variety of platforms, including Windows, Macintosh and UNIX, and we needed a product that was platform-agnostic," said A.G. Lambert, Senior Director of Product Marketing at Geac. "Therefore, having a high-performance database written entirely in Java was essential."

Previously, Extensity had utilized the PointBase Embedded database, a companion product to PointBase Micro, designed for laptops and larger applications. "Extensity had originally selected PointBase Embedded for its outstanding data management capabilities in offline environments," Lambert said. "As our product has matured, we wanted a smaller footprint database to reduce network traffic for downloads and better utilize the laptops' physical memory. Our experience with PointBase products had been so positive that migration to PointBase Micro was the natural step to take."

"PointBase helped us meet all our project goals and allowed us to provide even more functionality for our disconnected users."

It was important to developers to be able to migrate using code that had been developed for interacting with their corporate databases for reading and writing data and that supported the company's user-friendly applications. PointBase Micro provided seamless integration, enabled transparent data storage for disconnected use and then allowed synchronization, via a proprietary connectivity product, with enterprise databases.

By improving data management for mobile workers, PointBase Micro helped Extensity's customers meet a number of major business objectives, including:

- An average of 86% quicker turnaround time for processing reports
- Up to 78% reduction in operating costs
- Reduced input errors from the field
- Improved information for analysis of field efficiency
- A more productive mobile workforce that is free to concentrate on revenue-generating activities

Maximized Productivity for Field Personnel

Today, Extensity releases its mobile applications with a PointBase Micro database that uses the same SQL and JDBC standards as all enterprise databases. With this database embedded in the application, mobile workers can retrieve and update enterprise information, fill out time travel and expense reports, report on billable time and accomplish other administrative tasks even when on a plane or at any remote location. Updated information, stored in the PointBase database, can then be synchronized with the enterprise database when connected.

In the future, Extensity will continue to roll out its upgraded suite of products to new customers and upgrade old customers to PointBase Micro. "PointBase is the only vendor that provides the performance and portability our customers demanded," concluded Lambert.

Key Benefits to Extensity:

- Reporting and billing times reduced from 22 days to only three days
- Cross-platform support for heterogeneous mobile and corporate environments
- High-performance information-sharing across the enterprise
- A small footprint (< 90KB for J2SE), transparent and easy-to-deploy database for mobile applications

Extensity Products Using PointBase Micro:

- Extensity Expense Reports™
- Extensity Timesheets™
- Extensity Procurement™
- Extensity Travel Plans™



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