LANDSTAR SYSTEM, INC.

COMMENTARY BY BOB LEO,
DIRECTOR OF DATA MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION,
LANDSTAR SYSTEM, INC.

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INDUSTRY
- Shipping & Logistics

BUSINESS APPLICATION
- Enterprise Application Integration

TECHNOLOGY
- IBM iSeries (AS/400)
- Microsoft SQL Server

DataMirror® Transformation Server™

Landstar System, Inc. (www.landstar.com) is a safety-first, non-asset-based provider of transportation capacity. The Landstar carrier group, comprised of Landstar Gemini, Inc., Landstar Inway, Inc., Landstar Ligon, Inc. and Landstar Ranger, Inc., delivers excellence in complete over-the-road transportation services. The Landstar multimodal group, comprised of Landstar Express America, Inc. and Landstar Logistics, Inc., delivers excellence in expedited, contract logistics and intermodal transportation services. All Landstar operating companies are certified to the ISO 9001:2000 quality management system standards.

THE PROBLEM

Landstar's computing environment is comprised of 3 IBM iSeries (AS/400) systems located in Jacksonville, Florida and in Rockford, Illinois. The Company also has multiple Microsoft SQL Server systems in Jacksonville and Beltsville, Maryland. With a number of applications running on different platforms in various locations, Landstar found it challenging to integrate its data in real-time across all systems and handle high volume transactions with accuracy. Landstar needed a scalable data integration solution in place that would help provide its business partners with a real-time view of the information they needed to run their business.

THE SOLUTION

In 1997, the Company implemented DataMirror Transformation Server™ to integrate data bi-directionally and in real-time between its systems. However, at that time the Company had not established an enterprise-wide data movement strategy to complement the DataMirror solution.

"We knew Transformation Server would be a key component of our data management infrastructure, as the solution met our technical requirements for data integration and movement," said Bob Leo, Director of Data Management and Administration, Landstar System, Inc. "We attempted to combine several different methods with Transformation Server in order to create an effective centralized strategy for our data movement needs, however, over the years our unarchitected strategy created a maintenance nightmare, as the processes proved to be inefficient and required an abundant amount of time and resources."

In January 2002, a Data Management group and a cross-functional task force were formed to find an effective data movement process that could be combined with Transformation Server to centralize data into Landstar's data management environment. Today, Landstar is able to streamline the movement of its mission-critical information between source and target systems through the combined DataMirror and data management solutions.

DataMirror Transformation Server is an innovative software solution that allows users to capture, transform and flow data in real-time between DB2 UDB, Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, Sybase and XML across UNIX, Linux, Microsoft Window NT/2000/XP, IBM OS/400, OS/390 and z/OS. Transformation Server's out-of-the-box support for leading databases makes it ideal for a range of distributed data applications including enterprise application integration, e-Business, business intelligence and customer relationship management.

THE BENEFITS

Since the implementation of DataMirror Transformation Server, Landstar has experienced many business benefits.

Transformation Server integrates several mission-critical tables each day, with some tables containing nearly 2 million rows. Moreover, the solution directly benefits over 10,000 users including business partners and employees, providing them with access to real-time flows of information.

"We selected Transformation Server because of its ability to support a wide range of heterogeneous systems – namely the AS/400 and SQL Server platforms," said Leo. "Overall, we are very pleased with the end-to-end capabilities of Transformation Server. One of the most significant benefits that we have attained from this solution is that our data movement times have been reduced from 30 minutes to just over 5 seconds. This significant time variation helps create equal business opportunities for our partners as they can now all access the most current data even faster and deliver unparalleled transportation services to their customers."

THE ROAD AHEAD

Landstar's 2002 standing in *Forbes* Magazine's Platinum 400 List of America's Best Big Companies, clearly demonstrates its ongoing commitment to providing the very best transportation service to business partners. The Company's ISO 9001 standing also attests to its determination to provide quality management system standards across all facets of its business.

With the implementation of DataMirror Transformation Server, Landstar has heightened its commitments by enhancing its service levels to partners and strengthening its company-wide operational efficiencies. The Company's employees and business partners are now equipped with a real-time view of critical business information, enabling both partners and employees to be more productive and ultimately deliver better results.

HOW TO DO BUSINESS WITH DATAMIRROR

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