



XKS Limited – Case Study Iceland Implements XPOLL



Challenge

The need to improve the process of transferring data from stores to head office by increasing the speed and reliability of the process.

Solution

XPOLL Management System, An iSeries based polling and data collection product developed by XKS.

Benefits

Iceland now has a more reliable and efficient process of transferring data files from its stores to head office, which provides increased time and information for the processing of business Critical data.

The Retailer

Iceland Frozen Foods is part of the Big Food Group Plc and is the largest frozen food retailer in the UK with over 700 stores nationwide. The company employs more than 20,000 staff across the UK and has its Head Office in Deeside, North Wales.

The retailer identified the need to improve the process of transferring data from stores to head office by increasing the speed and reliability of the process. This was achieved by implementing XPOLL.

The Solution

XPOLL has been developed for AS/400 and iSeries systems and provides a central point of control for data transfer between central and remote systems.

Once Iceland viewed XPOLL at an existing customer site, they were happy to begin the implementation process in April 2001. XKS has been developing XPOLL further since the initial purchase with specific enhancements for Iceland. These enhancements have now been implemented.

The purpose of XPOLL at Iceland is to allow varying types of applications to run through it, for example, once XPOLL has collected the data from the stores EPOS system, XPOLL can then initiate the processing of the data. The type of data being polled by Iceland includes Sales Information, Stock Details, Price Changes and Store Layouts.

Colin Smith, Special Projects Manager at Iceland highlights the importance of selecting an AS/400 solution. "We were keen to select a polling application that ran on the AS/400 so that it would be compatible with the majority of our head office systems. There is no need for the transfer of data to and from a pc as was the case with our previous solution. The AS/400 solution reduces the steps in our polling process leading to a reduction in potential errors."

XPOLL allows for an unlimited number of files to be transferred concurrently from the stores, which dramatically increases the speed of data being transferred.

Specialist Assistance

XKS has been working with the AS/400 in a retail environment for over 15 years. Colin Smith believes this has been beneficial to the company. "We are confident that XKS understands the nature of our business and not only the issue of software being implemented."

Benefits

- XPOLL allows unlimited concurrent connections to the Iceland stores resulting in data being transferred at a much quicker rate.
- Data is received twice as quickly allowing more time for critical decisions to be made.
- As XPOLL is an AS/400 solution there is only the single link in the data transfer process, reducing the risk of errors.
- Less specialist skills are required as Iceland employees are already AS/400 skilled.