

“We went from thousands of core source code modifications in BPCS to less than twenty in ERP LX”

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“We went from thousands of core source code modifications in BPCS to less than twenty in ERP LX”. This is what Bryn Kahrl, the Process Engineering Manager of Eagle Ottawa, told me during our phone interview on his ERP LX upgrade project involving Nutech Systems. Performing scores of implementations with Nutech’s Viewpoint and the Nutech Screen Mapper over the years, I know what the software is capable of, and how it has removed modifications from BPCS and ERP LX allowing clients the benefit of implementing a vanilla version. However, I do have to say that this statement had me stunned for a few moments.

Eagle Ottawa, an automotive leather supplier, has many unique processes specific to their business, and over the years, this added-up to thousands of customizations in BPCS. This made it difficult for Eagle Ottawa to upgrade BPCS. When they decided to move to ERP LX, Eagle wanted to remove their modifications and run an unmodified version of ERP LX. Doing so would make this ERP LX upgrade, and future upgrades, easier and less expensive.

This is where Nutech came in. Nutech Systems provides advanced barcode and RFID data collection solutions, along with their very powerful interface software, the Nutech Screen Mapper. Using Nutech’s Viewpoint data collection, a majority of the modifications and unique situations were able to be handled within Viewpoint instead of modifying ERP LX. Then using the Nutech Screen Mapper, the collected information was interfaced to standard ERP LX real-time. This gave Eagle Ottawa the benefit of having their data collected and validated their way, while maintaining an unmodified version of ERP LX.

One example of how modifications were removed from ERP LX lies within Eagle’s shop order receipt process. Eagle creates work packages that contain many shop orders. Without any modifications, each shop order would have to be processed separately for both issues and shop order receipts. In BPCS, Eagle created sophisticated modifications to avoid the excessive data entry that would have to be performed.

With moving to ERP LX, and using Nutech’s software, all of the modifications for the shop order receipt process were removed from ERP LX. From a couple of Viewpoint screens, the work packet and quantity information were captured. Then using the Nutech Screen Mapper, Viewpoint automatically went through the work packet to process the transactions in ERP LX. As Bryn stated, “from a couple of Viewpoint screens, literally hundreds of ERP LX screens are being processed”.

Another example of how the Screen Mapper was used to remove modifications is in Eagle’s purchase order receiving process. When Eagle Ottawa receives items, a standard unit of measure conversion cannot be used. The items must be received, the correct quantity calculated, and then an adjustment must be made to correct the quantity received. In BPCS, a modification was

created by Eagle to automatically perform an adjustment to the received inventory after the receipt was processed in BPCS.

During the upgrade to ERP LX, using the Screen Mapper, a Viewpoint PO Receipt transaction was used to capture and validate the receipt. Viewpoint then automatically performed the PO receipt, the calculation, and adjustment into ERP LX standard screens. No ERP LX modifications were required.

As you can see, Eagle Ottawa gained not only the benefits of a barcode data collection solution with Nutech's Viewpoint, but also huge savings with being able to take their thousands of modifications down to less than twenty using the Nutech Screen Mapper. And these were just a couple of examples of what Viewpoint and the Nutech Screen Mapper can achieve. Bryn stated: "We believe that we will continue to find ways to increase the efficiency and efficacy of our business processes using the Viewpoint toolset. It is a key component in our ERP strategy."

From a single Viewpoint screen, the Nutech Screen Mapper can process any number of functions or screens in BPCS or ERP LX. The Screen Mapper can even be used outside of Viewpoint as an interface tool that works with any application running on the System i.

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