



Microsoft BizTalk & Host Integration Server



Overview

Country or Region: United States

Industry: Manufacturing

Customer Profile

KEMET Laboratories was established by Union Carbide Corp in 1919. With the advent of automatic machinery, KEMET began producing high-quality getters in massive quantities. This advancement resulted in KEMET's dramatic expansion and they now maintain manufacturing facilities, sales offices and distribution centers around the world. Found in virtually all electronic applications and products, KEMET capacitor components store, filter and regulate electrical energy and current flow. KEMET's diverse product line demanded a sophisticated, agile approach to the company's business challenges. KEMET asked Innovative Architects to help them overcome these challenges.

Business Situation

KEMET's supply chain needed enhancement in several areas and the company faced two primary problems. The first challenge was meeting the unique needs of its customers located in Asia. The second issue was that KEMET's CRM and ERP systems were hosted on an IBM iSeries.

Solution

With assistance from Innovative Architects, KEMET was able to leverage their existing subsystems by using Microsoft's BizTalk Server and Host Integration Server.

Benefits

- Expose systems simplified supply chain process
- Significant reduction in manpower needed for manual entries

Microsoft BizTalk & HIS Server Deliver the Flexibility Essential to the Manufacturing and Distribution Industry

"Our IA team helped Kemet achieve supply chain and system objectives. Our consultants worked closely with the Kemet team to ensure a quick, efficient and cost-effective answer to problems." –Daniel Cartwright, IA

When KEMET Manufacturing had trouble getting an internal process to perform the necessary transactions, the company turned to a proven Microsoft-based solution and to Innovative Architects, a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner, for implementation. Innovative Architects deployed the Microsoft BizTalk Server and Host Integration Server to quickly and seamlessly resolve KEMET's problem. The use of Microsoft technologies also enhanced productivity for KEMET's developers. The manufacturer now has the flexibility necessary to handle a variety of management systems.

From the onset, Innovative Architects understood that KEMET had several requirements of its software system. The solution must provide different KEMET teams with a stable, yet highly reusable integration platform that could manage varied integration scenarios. Additionally, the solution must integrate well with KEMET's existing software technologies. Finally, KEMET needed to standardize their technology platform while using minimal customizing tools. Working with Innovative Architects' certified consultants, KEMET fulfilled all of its requirements for robust, adaptable software with the Microsoft BizTalk Server 2006 Solution.

Today, manufacturers such as KEMET achieve their business objectives affordably and promptly thanks to enterprise-class B2B information integration. This solution increases organizational productivity and helps manufacturers achieve operational excellence by allowing them to make informed decisions more rapidly. By adapting the solution to KEMET's unique needs, Innovative Architects met the desired objectives on time and within budget.



For More Information

For more information about the Microsoft BizTalk Server solution, call the Innovative Architects Sales Information Center at 770.623.5734. To access information on line, go to:

www.InnovativeArchitects.com

For more information about Microsoft products and services, call the Microsoft Sales Information Center at (800) 426-9400. To access information using the World Wide Web, go to: www.microsoft.com

Software and Services

Servers and Tools

- Host Integration Server 2006
- BizTalk Server 2006
- SQL Server 2005
- Virtual Server
- Visual Studio .NET 2005

Desktop

- Office 2007
- Office InfoPath 2007
- Office Forms Server 2007

Partner

Innovative Architects, LLC

Situation

To satisfy customer and distributor requests, KEMET, a worldwide capacitor manufacturer, needed to expose their supply chain processes across multiple areas. The business community's widespread use of Microsoft Office meant that KEMET often received customer requests in Excel documents, rather than in a standard, technical EDI message. Additionally, KEMET's growing Asian customer base requested that the manufacturer integrate RosettaNet into their supply chain. To further complicate matters, KEMET's CRM and ERP systems were hosted on an IBM iSeries.

Solution

In order to interact with KEMET's CRM and ERP systems, Innovative Architects used the Host Integration Server 2006 to expose underlying logical files and host programs to Windows based applications. When access to the iSeries became available, BizTalk Server 2006 instantly handled messages from KEMET customers and distributors. Ordinarily, BizTalk does not support Excel parsing. By adapting an inexpensive third party tool, Innovative Architects was able to allow BizTalk to parse Excel files into an XML message which processes normally through BizTalk. To rapidly develop the RosettaNet pips for customers, the BizTalk Accelerator for RosettaNet leverages the RosettaNet subsystem. This is readily available from Microsoft.

Using BizTalk Server 2006 and Host Integration Server 2006, KEMET exposed its CRM and ERP system to customers and distributors. This step simplified the company's supply chain processes and this boosted efficiency.

By automating Excel document entry, KEMET drastically reduced its manpower requirements with no interruption to their customer and distributor data entry needs.

Benefits

- Simplified supply chain processes for customers and distributors
- Flexible scalability, fail-safe availability
- Automated Excel document entries
- Increased productivity
- Reduced data entry manpower costs

Summary

By providing the latest technologies and knowledge available, Innovative Architects fine-tuned a solution to meet KEMET's exact needs. Working onsite and in direct contact with KEMET staff, Innovative Architects' consultants ensured a seamless integration, thereby avoiding any interruptions in production. As KEMET continues to grow its operations, it does so with a solid software solution foundation underlying all of its efforts.

