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Chicago Gasket

Chicago Gasket's Move to MS SQL Server is Efficient and Painless

Summary

Chicago Gasket, one of the oldest and most successful suppliers of Teflon® gaskets and seals to the Chemical and Pharmaceutical industries, recently converted from a Unix/Informix database to a Windows/Microsoft SQL server. The conversion went off without a hitch, providing Chicago Gasket with a state of the art computing environment at a very low Total Cost of Ownership.

Background

Chicago Gasket has been in business for over 50 years, engineering and building gaskets and seals to the exacting demands of industries whose aggressive media, including high temperature, steam, and acids, require gaskets constructed of inert materials. During processing, these materials shrink at different rates, making for complex production and intensive initial engineering. Complicating production further, all gaskets and gasket components destined for use in the pharma industry must be FDA compatible.

Back in 1995, Chicago Gasket installed an integrated ERP system to help them cope with their six different production departments and to speed turn around time in an almost totally demand driven market. Based on reputation and cost, Chicago Gasket chose Relevant Business System's enterprise software and has successfully employed it since then. Last year, Chicago Gasket decided they wanted to switch to a more modern and cost effective operating system and relational database management system, believing that in the future, Microsoft may add more capabilities at a lower price than will their competition. Chicago Gasket's President, Eberhard Kohl,

looked to Relevant to seamlessly migrate the company onto the new server, an option that has been available at Relevant for some time.

The Process

After some initial discussions, Chicago Gasket determined that they wanted to proceed with the conversion in late November 2004. From then on, the process rolled along smoothly. The actual conversion was accomplished over a weekend in January. Chicago Gasket personnel turned off their workstations on Friday night. On-site Relevant personnel worked over the weekend to ensure that everything was properly prepared. When Chicago Gasket booted up on Monday, the new server was in place and functioned from the start without a single hitch. According to Eberhard Kohl, "The migration was a very smooth operation. I don't think it could have gone any better. Our Relevant partners have provided unfailingly expert service over our 10 year association, and they took us through this process efficiently and painlessly".

The Result

Even after 10 years of experience on their HP 3000 machine, Chicago Gasket users state that they see no difference with the new Dell Server running a Windows Server 2003 operating system with the Microsoft SQL relational database management system. Kohl states "We've been using the new system since January and have tested all functionality in the course of running our business. The SQL version is just as solid as the Informix version. We're satisfied that we now have a platform for growth and stability at a very affordable price".