

Custom Rubber Corporation – Application Article

On-Time Delivery Aided by Easy, Quick Print Compliance Labels

Custom Rubber Corporation Finds A Short Cut for Compliance Label Printing

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Customer Rubber Corporation in Cleveland, Ohio engineers and manufactures a wide variety of specialized rubber products for a myriad of industrial equipment. The company employs 80 people, all with a firm commitment to top quality products, witnessed by its deep involvement in the QS9000 and ISO 9001 quality standards. In addition to the focus on quality, Custom Rubber Corporation promises on-time delivery, making it popular with its suppliers.

The variety of custom rubber parts manufactured here ranges from Connector Boots to Gaskets. From extruders to injection presses, products are shipped to customers across the nation (and around the world).

In its commitment to provide on-time delivery for its products, Custom Rubber Corporation has found one critical tool that helps it keep its promise to its *global* customer base. Custom Rubber Corporation carefully adheres to the label requirements of its customers, thanks to a software package from Unibar, Inc. in Michigan.

Custom Rubber's proprietary ERP system running on Linux has been growing with the business since 1986. Until the year 2000, the system had a very cumbersome and inflexible ability to print bar-code labels. Finding a software program that would provide compliance labels, flexible design, and work across computer platforms for label design and printing. One of the challenges of implementing the new system was finding a software package to provide compliance labels required by the Custom Rubber Corporation's customers. Braun was looking for flexible label printing software that would run on its new Linux-based system, while still supporting a Windows® stations.

The typical label criteria had to be considered in selecting the new label printing software, in addition to Linux support. Braun also needed a package that would support the new 2-Dimensional bar codes, as well as graphics. The system has worked so well for meeting customer demands for shipping labels, Custom Rubber has developed a number of customized labels for internal inventory purposes. Some labels have up to 20 different fields of information (text, barcodes, and data). The system is integrated directly into the ERP system and labels can be printed from any one of 30 terminals (WYSE50's and Windows PC's).

Braun decided to search on his own before hiring a consultant to write code for their in-house ERP system. He found Unibar while searching the Web for Linux bar code software. The Unibar**BARCODE 2000 label printing software package he read about seemed to fit the requirements – supporting both Linux for the ERP application and Windows® 95/98 needed for the PCs. The solution definitely seemed more cost effective than hiring a consultant, so Braun called Unibar.

BARCODE 2000 is server-based label printing software for applications running under UNIX, LINUX, and Windows® NT systems, providing an easily integrated way to print bar coded labels or documents throughout the enterprise from a single server. BARCODE 2000 has a Formatter written in "C" code, and a WYSIWYG Label Designer written in Java. Written in "C" enables it to run faster than JAVA without the need for a JAVA interpreter to be installed.

As an added bonus, the software is application and printer independent. Since it supports most WMS, ERP and custom applications, Custom Rubber's in-house application was easily supported.. With BARCODE 2000, users can print anywhere on the network -- network, local, remote printers, and file print destinations are supported. In addition, BARCODE 2000 4.0/JAVA offers high-performance laser support for UNIX, Windows NT, Windows and LINUX systems, as well as full support on thermal printers.

**Current product name is Unibar® ELS Standard.
For additional information, please visit www.DSOnline.com.

Braun called Unibar about the software, and was able to download the software from the Unibar web site. His initial investigation showed several positive features that contributed to his final decision to use Unibar. BARCODE 2000's JAVA Label Designer enabled him to design Custom Rubber Corporation's much-needed custom labels using a one-time process. He could then print test labels. Braun also liked the Label Data Dictionary Editor, which enabled him to easily define variable label data easily, one time, then used it in any labels he wanted.

The use of the Unibar label printing software is one more contributing factor to reaching Custom Rubber's goal of on-time delivery.