

Quick Take:

Who: Gear for Sports – specialty sports clothing

Problem: discrepancies in data entry system

Solution: BARZ_OUT on the Oracle software, eliminated errors on internal systems

(packing slips, pick tickets, etc.) Likes EASE, FLIXIBILITY and STABILITY of BARZ_OUT

BARZ_OUT



Gear for Sports Wins with Unibar BARZ_OUT Bar Code Printing Software – Error reduction and increased productivity score big points!

Gear for Sports is a large wholesaler/retailer for specialty sports clothing and other merchandise, providing custom-designed products for collegiate and professional sports teams as well as corporate merchandise and tourist items. If you've ever been to a college book store and seen the variety of logo-sporting shirts, shorts, hats and even coffee mugs and key chains available, chances are you saw some merchandise shipped from this Kansas City wholesaler.

When Gear for Sports' Information Technology staffer Bob Wagner recently began his new assignment as Oracle Developer, he noticed discrepancies in the output for various company processes. The error rate in packing slips and pick tickets in the manufacturing arena was considerable, and was costing the company time and money.

"We needed to cut down on the number of discrepancies in our data entry system. That was an area where mistakes were frequently made, and we were hoping to reduce the errors," said Wagner. "We had been using bar codes on the shop floor effectively for some time, and I thought that we could try the same type of solution for our internal systems."

The system runs in the UNIX (IBM AIX Unix) environment, and is designed to handle internal shipping within the Gear for Sports company. When an order is taken, a ticket is written for the products requested to be moved from inventory to the work-in-progress area. For example, if custom embroidered shirts are ordered, the shirts are taken out of inventory and moved to the Embroidery Department where the custom order is filled. With manual data entry defining each job, there are many points where data entry errors could occur.

The Internal Inventory System consists of the Oracle client/server software application running on IBM AIX UNIX, over a Novell Netware local area network. The company uses HP 3000 laser printers.

Implementing bar coding to reduce errors and retain accuracy is not new, of course, but finding a quick easy solution for a UNIX environment is a challenge. Most solutions on the market require hardware configurations for each printer

"I knew that the HP printers offered a cartridge for bar coding, which we could buy for each printer," said Wagner, "but I decided to look for other options as well. Since I have access to the Web, I began my search there."

Wagner's search brought up www.Unibar.com. Seeing UNIX, Wagner thought he might have the key to a solution for Gear for Sports' internal systems.

“I was intrigued because Unibar software runs on UNIX, and supports Oracle. Most solutions are not UNIX based.” Said Wagner. “It appeared that the installation would require a minimum of effort on my part, and I could add barcodes where I wanted to put them on any of our documentation – pick slips, packing slips – whatever.”

Unibar’s BARZ_OUT is server based, and can support multiple printers anywhere on the network. Since it runs on top of the application, there is no coding required to install the product, and a trigger simply defines where to place the bar code in any document.

“Ease, flexibility, and stability were the three features that attracted me,” said Wagner.

Wagner ordered the product, which he downloaded from the Unibar web site. He had BARZ_OUT running on his Oracle application in no time.

Errors have been reduced considerably with this simple solution. With no programming required, and scoring immediate results, it’s the way the game should be played!