



Customer Story

Integration of data in an XML format to and from Puma's ERP system with XBIntegrator.

PUMA is engaged in the development and marketing of a broad range of sport and lifestyle articles including footwear, apparel and accessories. Puma UK needed to integrate its existing (ERP) purchase order system into the Puma global supply chain management system (GBS).



By Lucie Mees
Published January 2006

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Company information

PUMA endeavors not only to be the most desirable Sport lifestyle brand, but also to be the first truly virtual sports company. PUMA is engaged in the development and marketing of a broad range of sport and lifestyle articles including footwear, apparel and accessories.

Puma – facts and figures

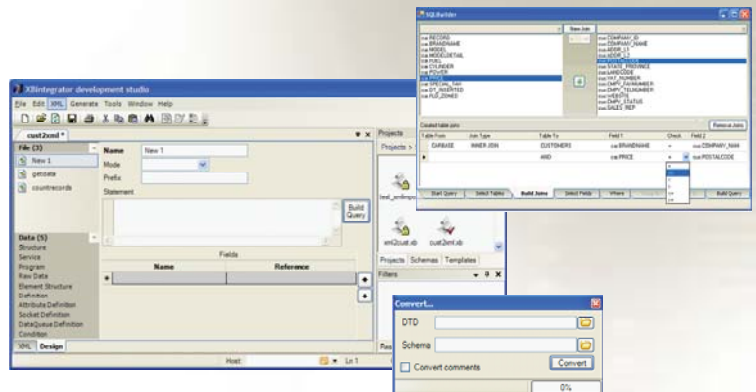
PUMA distributes its products in more than 80 countries.
Production in over 30 countries.
Employees: 3910 (end of 2004).
PUMA's revenue for the fiscal year 2004 was €1,530.3 million.

Challenge

Puma UK had a short time-span to create a system that would allow them to exchange data with their worldwide buying group (WorldCat). They needed to create purchase orders on their existing ERP system but for WorldCat to be able to integrate that data into its supply chain management system (GBC). Once the order had been created, it could only be changed within GBS, so there had to be a way for any changes to be automatically picked up and passed back to Puma UK's ERP.

Solution

All data transferred in and out of the Global Business System is in XML format. Puma UK uses XBIntegrator on the iSeries to parse the data in and out of its files. They also use XBScript to automate the SFTP procedure between the sites.



XBintegrator automated the GBS supply chain information into/out of our iSeries ERP system.

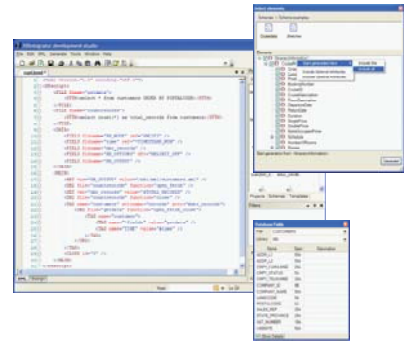
After the successful implementation of XBintegrator in UK, also Puma US and Puma Australia started working with XBintegrator.



Invenso bvba
Bedrijvencentrum Waasland
Industriepark-West 75
9100 Sint-Niklaas
Belgium

Tel.: +32-3-780.30.02
Fax: +32-3-780.30.03
Email: info@invenso.com
Website: www.invenso.com

Puma developed their interface to collect and organize all the purchase order data to be given to GBS. WorldCat had supplied the schemas for the xml transfer, so using XBScript, Puma UK is now able to produce some scripts to create the XML file. The XBids product is used to develop the scripts for both inbound and outbound processing, and with a timescale of only a few weeks to get the system in place, the shallow learning curve of XBintegrator was ideal for the job. Initially, it was a manual process to move the files (using a free SFTP (Secure File Transfer Procedure) product called WinSCP) but as we got more confident with the product, we are able to create the files that will allow us to automate entire procedure, says Dave Butler, IT manager at Puma UK.



Results

We were able to easily produce scripts to convert our files into XML and to parse the XML data back to the iSeries.

The final result of this project will be the seamless automation of GBS supply chain information into/out of our iSeries ERP system. This integration removes all our data re-keying thus making efficient use of our resources.

The successful integration of XBintegrator at Puma UK and the positive results they experienced led to the implementation of XBintegrator in other Puma subsidiaries, namely Puma US and Puma Australia.



Address Information

Grange Road - Batley
Batley, West Yorkshire WF17 6PU
United Kingdom
Info-uk@puma.com
www.puma.com