



SNCF saves \$11 million annually with Web-enabled data warehouse.

Year after year, SNCF answers the rail transportation call of 800-million travelers and countless organizations — moving 135 million tons of freight

through France, England and Belgium, safely and on schedule. A \$14-billion organization, SNCF manages the state-owned French railway and more than 400 consolidated subsidiaries.

“The combination of WebSphere Application Server, DB2 and VisualAge for Java has ensured our smooth transition to e-business.”

– Michel Boigey, Infocentre Manager, SNCF

But the problem was that, until recently, access to Infocentre came by way of 3270 terminal emulation or through client PCs linked to SNCF’s client/server infrastructure. Business analysts often needed assistance from IT staff to

Application Knowledge management, BI Web-based access to Infocentre, a data warehouse that consolidates business and operational information

Aside from smooth-running engines, sound business decisions have enabled SNCF to become one of Europe’s foremost land transport organizations. For the analysts and executives making these decisions, access to timely information about SNCF’s operations and customers is critical. Infocentre, a data warehouse developed with IBM DB2 for OS/390, enables SNCF’s business users to leverage the organization’s freight line, customer and employee information for insightful decision-making.

Business Benefits \$11 million saved annually; sophisticated reports generated 50% faster; realtime access to information for critical decision-making

Software IBM WebSphere™ Application Server, Advanced Edition
IBM DB2® for OS/390®
IBM VisualAge® for Java™
IBM HTTP Server

Hardware IBM S/390® Parallel Enterprise Server™



SNCF is gaining insightful business information through Web-based access to its data warehouse.

generate meaningful reports. SNCF soon recognized that in order for its analysts to continue making smart business decisions, it needed to provide easier access to Infocentre.

SNCF turned to Internet technologies, Web-enabling access to Infocentre over a corporate intranet designed under the Application Framework for e-business. The intranet was developed with IBM VisualAge for Java, IBM WebSphere Application Server and IBM HTTP Server and runs on an IBM S/390 Parallel Enterprise Server. Using a Web browser and off-the-shelf reporting and analysis software, a wider range of SNCF employees are able to create the reports they need from SNCF's data warehouse, quickly and independently.

"The Application Framework for e-business enabled us to leverage existing IT resources and take advantage of open standards-based technologies," notes Michel Boigey, Infocentre manager. "Today, more departments are using our data warehouse for more sophisticated analyses, generated in half the time it once took. And because we have timely and accurate information, we're able to better control our transport tax payments. This is expected to save \$11 million annually."

Business insights on demand

Using Infocentre, financial analysts can now easily compare costs for each of SNCF's subsidiaries by querying the data warehouse for appropriate figures. Marketing personnel can track freight customers by monthly profitability. Human relations staff can group employees by salary range. And railroad engineers can evaluate service and maintenance records for the company's three million traffic relays. SNCF expects that its Web-enabled Infocentre will become increasingly popular, ultimately serving at least 2,200 employees.

Delivered by powerful IBM e-business solutions

SNCF credits the IBM e-business solutions for its information analysis success. Using VisualAge for Java, which supports Java Database Connectivity (JDBC), SNCF's IT team developed pre-defined SQL queries that provide access to information managed by DB2.

The organization will soon migrate its data to IBM DB2 Universal Database™ for S/390 to take advantage of its enhanced functionality for e-business. WebSphere Application Server functions as the Java servlet engine, managing the solution's Java components, while IBM HTTP Server delivers the site to Web browsers. Says Boigey, "The combination of WebSphere Application Server, DB2 and VisualAge for Java has ensured our smooth transition to e-business."

A future built on open standards

SNCF now has an e-business foundation for leveraging its information assets to support better business decision-making. "We selected IBM because it offered strong support and scalable, reliable products," says Boigey. "The open architecture of the IBM e-business solution provides a clear roadmap for our future. It is enabling us to improve enterprisewide information-sharing and decision-making, and is taking us closer to our objective of being part of the core of a future European rail system."

For more information, please contact your IBM marketing representative or IBM Business Partner.

Visit us at:
ibm.com/e-business

For more information about SNCF, visit:
www.sncf.fr



© Copyright IBM Corporation 2000

IBM Corporation
Software Group
Route 100
Somers, New York 10589

Produced in the United States of America
04-00
All Rights Reserved

DB2, DB2 Universal Database, the e-business logo, OS/390, S/390, S/390 Parallel Enterprise Server, VisualAge and WebSphere are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation in the United States, other countries or both.

Java and all Java-based trademarks are trademarks of Sun Microsystems, Inc. in the United States, other countries or both.

Other company, product or service names may be trademarks or service marks of others.

This case study illustrates how one customer uses IBM products. Many factors have contributed to the results and benefits described. IBM does not guarantee comparable results. All information contained herein was provided by the featured customer. IBM does not attest to its accuracy.

References in this publication to IBM products or services do not imply that IBM intends to make them available in all countries in which IBM operates.



Printed in the United States on recycled paper containing 10% recovered post-consumer fiber.



G325-6663-00