Sector 7

DuPont

OUPOND

Nature of Project

Production Line Control System DEC VAX VMS to IBM Netfinity Windows NT FORTRAN

During 194 years of continuous operation DuPont has become a global leader among industrial growth companies, and a leader in science and technology in a range of disciplines including high-performance materials, specialty chemicals, pharmaceuticals and agricultural products. With established major markets in North America and Europe, DuPont is making its presence known in Asia Pacific and South America. DuPont's business approach is to continually invest in modern and leading-edge manufacturing processes.

More than ten years ago, DuPont began developing a factory Manufacturing Execution System (MES). The software developed by the DuPont MIS group is designed specifically for the DuPont manufacturing model, and reflects the procedure and processes required for manufacturing and distributing significant volumes of CORIAN,—a unique solid surface material. Since its introduction in 1967, CORIAN, has proven to be a remarkably durable, versatile material useable in residential and commercial environments. The software, as currently implemented, monitors inventory, color control, as well as the overall manufacturing process.

The objective of this project was to migrate a component of the OpenVMS-based process control system to IBM Netfinity, running Windows NT. The application code was VAX Fortran and some C language code. Using Sector7's tools, the Fortran and C code was converted to a form acceptable to the Windows-based compilers. One aspect of the project was the ability for the applications to share files between the existing OpenVMS-based systems and the new Windows-based ones. Sector7 developed enhancements to its RMS file system emulation which has permitted relatively seamless file access across the network.

By using Sector7's tools, DuPont saved many man-hours of effort, and greatly reduced the anticipated project costs and risks.

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