




B & H Council Needed a Printing Solution within 21 days. AutoFORM delivered in 11

Overview

- **Industry**
Local authority Government
- **Business Solution**
Electronic forms distribution
- **IT Applications**

Radius Powersolve,
hosted on IBM Mainframe
and Unix

Ethernet TCP/IP

Novell Netware

WIndows NT 4
- **Products Used**
LaserNet output
management

LaserNet Email & Fax
- **Benefits**
converts paper documents
to electronic images for
automated emailing, faxing.

Minimum disruption to the
system during installation.

Improved production of
business documents.

Pre-printed stationery
costs reduced. Enhanced
corporate image.



AutoFORM transforms this...

...to this

Martin Strange, Brighton & Hove Council - Corporate Finance Comments on AutoFORM Print:



"Brighton & Hove are a Unitary Authority formed of the boroughs of Brighton & Hove and part of East Sussex. Soon after inauguration as a new Council they implemented an integrated Financial System (Radius Powersolve) to enable each department to monitor their own budgets. One notable operational change with the new system, was making purchase orders mandatory; i.e. a department can not pay an invoice unless it was raised against an authorised purchase order. The orders themselves were printed locally from the Unix box across the network to local laser printers. Unfortunately the financial system did not produce professional looking orders (there were no logos, for example). The obvious solution would have been pre-printed stationery, but the cost was prohibitive, and would have involved having to change the paper every time we wanted to print an order.

A solution needed to be found fast. Some suppliers had questioned the validity of orders, and it was felt the corporate image/identity of the council was being damaged. We recognised that Output Management software would be the answer and evaluated a number of different options. AutoFORM was by far the most versatile solution. In particular we liked the way that we would be able to upgrade the software at a later date with emailing & faxing document distribution, as well as an online archive,. Moreover, as a UK company EFS company could arrange for the software to be installed and have our orders printing within a mere 3 weeks from order.



One of the advantages of the AutoFORM solution is that it is so easy to use. The 'drag & drop' GUI interface enables data mapping and template changes in minutes: a major time saver compared to traditional coded programming.

What is more, EFS staff were very friendly, very efficient and very patient (we tested all three!)"

**Martin Strange,
Corporate Finance
Brighton & Hove**

Key Business Benefits

AutoFORM has brought Brighton & Hove Council a number of immediate and long term benefits, including:

- Immediate and significant cost savings on pre-printed stationery.(Headed stationery cost in the region to £25.00 per ream, compared to laser stock at £2.00 per ream)
- Enabled automated BACS payments and email document distribution.
- Met UK government "value for money" spending criteria
- Eliminates time wasting practices of paper changing, document collation or 'bursting' of pre-printed stationery. Eradicates frustrating form misalignment problems.
- Existing printers, whether matrix or laser could be used
- Implemented without business disruption and gives continuous trouble free performance
- The quality of business documents produced has reduced document queries, helping suppliers to deliver faster and more accurately.
- System was easily upgraded with email-fax automatic document delivery and online archiving (document imaging). This proved particularly helpful for automating BACS payments and communications.
- Onward document changes could be undertaken by our own IT department
- Although initially AutoFORM was used to resolve our purchase order printing problem, the advantages of distributed printing were quickly employed for automated BACS & Cheque remittances, and invoices, all of which were originally printed via an old mainframe system.

From start to finish in 11 days

With a number of year 2000 issues consuming the IT departments attention and the critical need for a quick solution, Brighton & Hove contracted EFS to undertake the initial development work. Strange explains: "If we had realised how easy AutoFORM is to use, we might have been more tempted to do the work ourselves, however spending a little on initial support repaid itself tenfold in time savings and meant that we had a working solution in just 11 days."

The first project meeting occurred on the 11th March. By the 25th March all the document templates had been designed and approved, the data mapping and distribution rules set, and the system fully tested with live data. This gave us a few days grace to introduce the system to operators before the official go live date on the 31st March. Six months on, there have been absolutely no operating problems. A fantastic solution all round.

Martin Strange concluded: *What is more, EFS staff were very friendly, very efficient and very patient (we tested all three!)"*

About AutoFORM LaserNet

AutoFORM is a modular based software for transforming output data into attractive, laser printable business forms, and labels or for mapping and specialist stationery such as cheques. Documents are then electronically distributed across your LAN/WAN network, or via email, fax or xml and simultaneously archived.