



Dataflow Case Study Charities



dataflow~32 is the financial system upgrade path choice for The British Computer Society

When The British Computer Society, the chartered engineering institution for the information systems profession, looked for a new business finance system, it chose to stay with Dataflow UK Ltd. A long-term Dataflow customer, the Society upgraded to *dataflow~32*, a true 32-bit Windows enterprise accounting system.

A thriving membership-led organisation

The Swindon-based organisation is a registered charity, with over 38,000 individual and corporate members worldwide. Among the products and services it offers to members and non-members are qualifications and examinations, technical and professional publications, training and a comprehensive events programme. Members receive a range of benefits through their subscription. The Society's system has to accommodate sales and purchases related to these activities. The Society has 40 Branches and 50 Specialist Groups.

Earlier in 2001, the Society recognised that increasing volumes of business and the need for more system functionality meant that it had outgrown its existing Dataflow accounting software, the DOS-based dBFLEX system. The search for a replacement system began in earnest when a new Finance Manager, Wendy Franklin, joined the Society.

Selecting the best

As Wendy Franklin, explains, it was by no means a foregone conclusion that the Society would stay with its existing system provider. She says, "While we had worked successfully with Dataflow UK in the past, we knew we had to review the market thoroughly and undertake a rigorous selection process. We rapidly came to the conclusion that only *dataflow~32* would give us the ease of use and flexibility of a true Windows product..."

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We were impressed to find that it wasn't just an update of the previous dBFLEX product. It had been totally rewritten from the ground up." The Society placed its order for a 15-user replacement system at the end of March 2001.



Swifter migration reduces return on investment

There was an immediate advantage in choosing to stay with a Dataflow system. The Society had set itself the challenge of going live with the new system at the start of its new financial year in May 2001 and needed to migrate all its financial data. Wendy Franklin comments, "Data migration from the old dBFLEX system to *dataflow~32* went very smoothly, and the process was completed to demanding timescales. This would have been much more difficult and risky if we'd had to move all our data to another vendor's system."



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During implementation the support provided by Dataflow was excellent. There were a few problems migrating the data, due to corrupt data on our old system, but Dataflow still managed to hit the 'go live' date." The installation also came in within budget.

Comprehensive support for the Society's business

The *dataflow~32* system now supports the work of the Society through three main ledgers: Sales and Purchasing, and Nominal from which the management accounts are run. Dataflow's Analyzer module is a significant support in generating management reports. The *dataflow~32* system is actually run with four separate nominal ledgers; three of these are all the same company, but split into the divisions of: The British Computer Society, Branches and Specialist Groups. The fourth is the British Informatics Society Limited, a subsidiary of the Society.

Wendy Franklin adds, "Being able to exploit 32-bit technology provides us with higher levels of performance and flexibility." A future goal is to link the system into the Society's membership system for an integrated solution.

Dariush Mogtader, Managing Director of Dataflow UK, comments, "We are delighted that through *dataflow~32*, we are continuing to fulfill the needs of The British Computer Society with a powerful, yet user-friendly, finance system."

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