



Dataflow Case Study Non-Profit Organisations



Delivering for Britain

Chamber of Shipping Steams Ahead with *dataflow~32*

Representing the owners of over 500 ships from ferries and cruise liners to tankers and container vessels, the Chamber of Shipping needs to keep tight control of its business activities. As the trade association for over 122 British & International ship owners and managers, the London-based Chamber of Shipping membership accounts for 90% of British shipping across all sectors of the industry.

Since the issue of a Royal Charter in the 19th Century, the organisation's key purpose is to provide companies with information on developments that could affect their ability to run their businesses. It also promotes the industry's interests to Government and other relevant bodies in Britain and abroad.

To perform its duties efficiently and effectively on behalf of its members, it is paramount that the accounting, management and reporting structure at The Chamber of Shipping is accurate, robust and flexible.

In 1998, management at The Chamber of Shipping realised that its existing accounting system could not support the increasing demands placed on it as the organisation grew and moved towards the new millennium. Its legacy system was Tetra, running under UNIX. The issues were that the system was character-based with a command line structure, which presented a non-flexible approach. Furthermore, it was not Year 2000 or EMU compliant. These issues caused limitations and restrictions in the accounting process.

The Chamber of Shipping planned to replace both the accounting system and hardware over a long period, however as the system was becoming so restrictive; the decision was taken to bring the change forward. The criteria for the new system were simple – a Windows-based solution delivering powerful functionality and reporting, ease-of use and Millennium compliance.

***dataflow~32* was the only true robust 32-bit Windows-based accounting system available with the flexible functionality it needed.**

When Jeffrey Smith, Chief Accountant, looked at the market he was surprised by the lack of solutions available that met his criteria from leading accountancy software players. Then he came across Dataflow and its new *dataflow~32* software and concluded that this was the only true robust 32-bit Windows-based accounting system available, with the flexible functionality he needed.



It also offered many new features that would be of major benefit to the organisation.

However, there was one further requirement. As the Chamber of Shipping is responsible for the statutory year-end and management accounts for major maritime organisations, it was essential that the accounting system delivered timely and detailed accounting.

The Chamber of Shipping was impressed with the detailed, well thought out structure of the software, even from the point of the development language used to write it. Delphi is generally considered the most effective language for building true 32-bit Windows architectures.



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dataflow~32 provides The Chamber of Shipping with a whole catalogue of impressive functionality including:

Data representation – as accountancy systems hold information critical to business, it is vital to have all information available at the touch of a button. *dataflow~32*, provides sort and search on any fields and navigation through the system quickly and accurately.

With **OLE and OLE drag and drop technology** built in, the software integrates seamlessly with Microsoft Desktop applications.

Graphical representation of figures is accumulated throughout the system, and all reports are completely flexible and tailorable.

Chart of Accounts and Management reporting – Using the *dataflow~32* Cost Centre reduced the number of nominal headings from the original 2,400 to just 150. Not only does this make it a lot more manageable but also produces better management reports at a fraction of the time it used to take.

Consolidation – As *dataflow~32* is a true multi-company system, The Chamber of Shipping is able to move between group companies at the click of the mouse and consolidating several or all group companies anywhere within the system is simple.

Multi-base currency – as a true multi-base currency system, it enables the handling of any dimensions that may arise. As well as trading in any currency, The Chamber of Shipping is able to instantly analyse the company in any currency it likes; for instance, it can concurrently view the financial position in Sterling, Dollars and Euros.

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Smith, Chief Accountant for The Chamber of Shipping. "We were amazed at how simple the process was. While the data from the old systems had to be checked manually, once this was complete the download was instant with the push of a

button." Smith continues, "When the Director General, Vice Admiral Sir Christopher Morgan KBE, asked me how the implementation was progressing I was able to tell him that the implementation was finished far quicker than expected."

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dataflow~32 has been developed to provide users with powerful functionality and a user-friendly environment. It delivers complex accounting along with sophisticated reporting using simple and effective procedures. But just as important, Dataflow also believes strongly in providing a high level of ongoing support to its customers. "Unlike

many others, Dataflow is a company with a help desk that does," concludes Smith: "*dataflow~32* is an extremely cost-effective system. Other systems, up to three or four times more expensive, do not come close to matching the specification."

Dariusz Mogtader, Managing Director of Dataflow UK, comments, "We are very pleased that through *dataflow~32* we have been able to provide the multi-based, multi-currency, multi-company requirement that the Chamber of Shipping were looking for".

Dataflow's Management Systems are already helping many companies to realise their true growth potential through streamlining their business processes. If you would like further information, please contact us on 0845 456 1020.

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