



## Xbridge Systems Gives Mission Linen Supply A Real-time View Into Corporate Finances

### Situation

For Mission Linen Supply to develop its weekly financial reports, it took their IS department a full day to create them. By the time the regional managers and the corporate controller, Robert Szerwo, saw the information, it was already out of date.

### Business Challenge

Mission Linen Supply's IT department had resigned itself to this laborious, time-consuming procedure. First, the mainframe data was transferred over a slow-speed SNA communication link to the IT staff member's PC. She ran separate programs, first to convert the data type and then to convert the format. She then populated a spreadsheet, prepared the report and e-mailed it to the controller.

By this time, the data was at least a day old, meaning that Robert lacked real-time visibility into the economic viability of the company.

It was critical for Mission Linen Supply to view the mainframe information, however, their process to do so made it challenging and time intensive.

### Xbridge Systems' Solution

With Xbridge Host Data Connect™, Mission Linen Supply was able to solve their mainframe data access problem. The product enables Web browsers and Microsoft Windows® applications to have direct, viewable access to mission-critical data on an OS/390® mainframe.

Because of the product's multi-variant filtering capability, the controller can quickly and easily get the information he needs (and only the information he needs) in the format he wants (Excel), even at 56bps or slower.

| Case Study Snapshot |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <i>Industry:</i>    | <i>Service</i>  |
| <i>Department:</i>  | <i>Finance</i>  |
| <i>Product:</i>     | <i>Host Data Connect</i>  |
| <i>Why Xbridge?</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Real-time access to mainframe data.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Data sort functionality with Multi-Variant Filtering.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Seamless, cost-effective solution.</i></li> </ul> |

The process is elegant in its simplicity. The controller launches Excel, which activates its ActiveX component. The controller then chooses the filter criteria from the drop-down boxes prepared by the IT department. He can even change his search criteria at will, allowing him to analyze the data in different ways.

He is then prompted to log on to the mainframe and is authenticated using RACF security. Because only the requested data comes back, it is quickly transmitted even over the slow communications link. The information appears already formatted in an Excel spreadsheet.

This multi-variant filtering capability, which is unique in this class of products to Host Data Connect, does not require any additional mainframe programs or batch processing.

### Results

Xbridge Systems' Host Data Connect transformed a time-consuming, multi-step, manual process into a simple one that takes only seconds. Robert can now, at will, ask for data, see that data in the desired format, and work with up-to-the minute information.

### In the Customer's Words

*"As Corporate Controller, I care about the quality and availability of information to run the business. Xbridge Host Data Connect gives me what I need, when I need it, in the Excel format that I require. You can't ask for more than that. I'm extremely happy with the choice of Xbridges' Host Data Connect product. It sorts through an incredible amount of data in our General Ledger system to give me real-time, usable information, whenever I need it, directly to my desktop. With Xbridge Host Data Connect, I can focus on managing the business instead of wondering how to get the information I need. It couldn't be easier!"*

Robert Szerwo, Corporate Controller, Mission Linen Supply

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