



SAP R/3 and AutoFORM LaserNet

"– a Perfect Combination for Sending Invoices in XML"

Overview

■ Challenge

To create invoices from SAP in oioXML format: a Danish Public Authority XML standard.

To eliminate the cost & time to handle and deliver paper invoices.

A mere 6 weeks to meet the project completion deadline.

High volumes of invoices per month.

Invoices were extremely complex with a number of projects included on a single, end of month, invoice.

■ IT applications

SAP R/3
Microsoft Business Solutions
- Navision
WIN 2003

■ Solution

AutoFORM LaserNet Output Management with XML
Email & Fax distribution

■ Why AutoFORM LaserNet?

With 14 worldwide offices, COWI required a solution that could be controlled from the Danish headoffice, but could create invoices in each countries favoured XML format(s)).

In addition the LaserNet software greatly simplified the XML formatting process.

■ Would this help you?

LaserNet can be used with all IT applications and platforms, to selectively send your standard output such as SAP Script or SAP RDI in a range of customer specific XML formats, without complex and expensive programming.



Danish Engineering Consultancy, COWI needed to create and send SAP R/3 invoices electronically in oioXML format for their Government customers. New XML software from EFS Technology, meant that the assignment could be achieved quickly without complex and expensive programming. Their IT Director, Jens Erik Nielsen comments...



From the 1 February 2005, suppliers to public authorities in Denmark are no longer allowed to send paper invoices. Invoices must be sent electronically in XML and fulfil a number of requirements in terms of data content and format.

Forward thinking Danish Engineering Consultants, COWI were prepared for the Danish Governments initiative. COWI has numerous customers in the public sector, including many of the Danish Local Authorities, and produce several thousand invoices per month via their SAP R/3 system.

What is more, each invoice is highly complex, detailing multiple projects over several A4 pages. COWI was therefore aware that converting to oioXML (similar to eBIS-XML in the UK) would be a major project.

AutoFORM LaserNet was the Right Solution

"Initially we looked at 4 or 5 different solutions, but when we saw how LaserNet simplified the creation of XML documents from SAP, we soon realised that LaserNet was the right choice for us" says Jens Erik Nielsen, who is responsible for COWI's IT systems.



Output & Document Management

AutoFORM LaserNet was the Right Solution

Nielsen continues: "The LaserNet solution was not the cheapest, but on the other hand it offered a greater level of functionality. LaserNet XML also works with a number of different IT systems not just SAP, which meant that we could create XML documents from our other ancillary IT applications, including Navision, which many of our subsidiaries and local branches use."

Quick Implementation

The decision to use LaserNet was made shortly before Christmas 2004, and the project to start in earnest in the January. So there was not much time before the completion date of 1 February.

Put to the Test

"But we made it, even though we encountered some unexpected problems", remembers Jens Erik Nielsen:

"The original plan with LaserNet was to take the invoice records that SAP Script sent to the printer as an ASCII file and map them over into oioXML, but because of the complexity of the invoices, this was not possible. So we had to find another way to convert them."

Jens Erik Nielsen and the LaserNet developers worked together to overcome the problems and develop an alternative solution, and the project was still finished on time, he says:

A Good Investment

"We sent the first oioXML invoices on 2 February, and it went well. The only problem was that a number of Denmark's VAN networks were not able to transmit oioXML files, which was a bit frustrating when we had worked hard to meet the Government's deadline. "

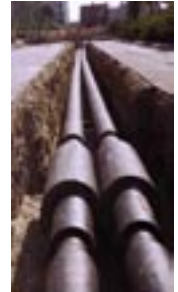
However, the situation was quickly remedied, as the advantage of LaserNet XML files is that they can also be printed to paper, as a normal looking document. The company just continued sending paper copies of the invoices to its customers for a few weeks more until the networks were totally oioXML ready.

Our Customers Were Pleased too..

Jens Erik Nielsen and his colleagues have thus acquired a solution that enables them to fulfil the authorities' requirements:

"We now have a solution that is quick and easy to work with, and many of clients are delighted to receive XML documents tailored to their precise needs. So we are very satisfied with the result, and with the LaserNet's quick, efficient and competent service. And of course we are we will be very pleased with the amount of money we will save on postage and delivery," says Nielsen with a smile.

COWI: World-Class Consulting



COWI is a Danish foundation, employee-owned consultancy that works worldwide in areas such as engineering technology, economy and the environment.

With 3400 highly skilled employees, COWI is a market leader in large engineering projects. The Great Belt Link, the Oresund Link and the Copenhagen Metro are just a few of the projects COWI has taken part in.

COWI's head office is in Lyngby, near Copenhagen.