

METRO INC. is an acknowledged leader in the Quebec food industry with 11,500 employees and reported sales of \$6 billion for 2004. The company's operations are concentrated in Quebec and Ontario. METRO is the second largest food retailer in Quebec, where it also holds an important position in the food services industry. In addition, it is active in the distribution of pharmaceutical products and as the franchisor of Brunet drugstores and Clini-Plus pharmacies. In Ontario, with its Loeb and Super C banners, METRO also ranks second in the supermarket segment in Ottawa and in the north eastern regions of the province.

METRO is dedicated to offering quality products adapted to its customers' needs, and to providing its shareholders with superior returns. Through its employees and those of its affiliated retailers and pharmacists, totalling more than 32,500 people, the company is also an important contributor to the well-being and development of the communities where it is present.



### The Challenge

Prior to implementing the PIREL payroll solution, METRO, like many other companies, prepared its payroll using a mainframe computer. The IBM AS400 mainframe, however, could only produce printed reports. If METRO needed a six-month pay history, an employee had to sort through numerous printed reports and manually collect, compile, organize, and prepare the history by hand. METRO encountered delays in processing, printing, and distributing reports, as a result of this time-consuming procedure.

METRO wanted to improve efficiency, while providing security and data confidentiality. Since they were already successfully using the PIREL Printer Composition Module to print their supplier's cheques, they turned to PIREL for a solution to their payroll challenge.

### The PIREL Solution

PIREL recommended the use of a dedicated server to handle payroll data. The PIREL EFS Server™ connects to the IBM AS400 mainframe. The server intercepts and indexes data, generates optimized PDF files, and archives these documents in a database. Security is ensured with password protection as well as features to control per-page access to each archived document. The PIREL solution includes an easy-to-use interface for searching for and retrieving information.

Now, collecting data for a six-month pay history takes just seconds. Even multiple-year histories can be obtained in real time, a feat that was impossible with the mainframe. "The key feature of the PIREL system is immediate access to the most up-to-date information," says Lorraine Beaulieu, Director of Payroll Services, at METRO.

The integration with METRO's IT infrastructure was transparent, smooth, and completed in the agreed-upon timeframe. Since the PIREL EFS Server™ can directly link to a mainframe, the installation was essentially a plug-and-play procedure. "It was not necessary to involve METRO's IT staff," explained Mrs. Beaulieu.

### The Result

Today the PIREL EFS Server™ handles more than 15,000 employee payroll reports. Productivity has improved at METRO, since obtaining information is instantaneous and METRO no longer needs to print and manage thousands of pages of paper reports. Moreover, the PIREL solution offers greatly enhanced data security with the use of a dedicated payroll server, password requirements, and per-page access restrictions on documents.

"Speed, ease of use, secure" - These are the words used by Mrs. Beaulieu when asked to summarize the PIREL solution.

### Summary of Benefits for METRO

- Greatly enhanced security since the PIREL system runs on a dedicated server with password requirements and per-page access restrictions
- Significant improvement in productivity since information is immediately available in a convenient PDF format for all authorized personnel
- Elimination of the need to print lengthy paper reports, resulting in fewer storage, filing, retrieval, and paper costs
- Increased efficiency of the report processing procedure
- Easy and quick access across the corporate network due to the optimized file format of archived documents

### About PIREL

Founded in 1994, PIREL is a software company dedicated to improving the way that business manages documents by providing robust, secure, high-calibre integrated document and content management solutions at competitive prices. PIREL recognizes the need for rapidly deployed web-based solutions that conform to open standards and maintain document integrity in a scalable and customizable framework. PIREL is committed to helping customers achieve their objectives by providing innovative software solutions and by building long-term, honest, and respectful relationships.