

Putting Data from Legacy Applications Online – the Answer to a Modern Dilemma

2005 is a very special year for us at PIREL, since we are also celebrating our 10th anniversary in the document management industry.

We all have to reflect on the past, and plan for the future. This reflection is particularly critical for companies who are investing in new web technologies for managing enterprise content.

According to Gartner, up to 70% of corporate data still resides on a mainframe. While these computers are solid, reliable, and secure, they require specialized hardware or software to access and present data.

Web-based applications, on the other hand, offer a graphical user interface as well as enormous potential to access and transfer data from anywhere in the world using a simple web browser. In addition, they offer platform independence, and ease of maintenance, since software is not installed at individual workstations. To bridge the gap between the old and the new, a growing number of companies are exploring the potential of a web interface to a mainframe or other legacy system.

With PIREL, you get the best of both worlds. PIREL software is a fast, cost-effective, and risk-free method of providing a web-based front-end to your data. You avoid expensive hardware updates and lengthy software implementations that are often not successful. The benefits of the mainframe computing environment are not compromised, and you have all the advantages of a more modern web technology.

The latest version of the PIREL Server provides a comprehensive set of document management tools, greatly enhanced security features, and a redesigned, easier-to-use web interface. It integrates effortlessly with your existing IT environment, and allows your Web Portal to be up and running quickly. Indeed, you might want to put the PIREL Server on your wish list for 2005.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denis Pigeon', written in a cursive style.

Denis Pigeon - Founder & President

Webifying Enterprise Information: 3 Winning Solutions from PIREL for 2005

Web Portal solutions - a convenient and versatile way to present data over a corporate network and the Internet

The PIREL Web Portal is used in a variety of common business situations to access and present documents and reports. Several examples are described here.

- A supplier wants to know when a delivery was picked up. With the Web Portal solution, you can archive bills of lading, and suppliers can view them online - within minutes of the signing.
- Employees need to access reports. For ease of maintenance or security, your enterprise does not want to install specialized software at workstations. With the Web Portal, absolutely no installation of software at workstations is necessary.
- A company wants to generate reports from multiple legacy sources. The PIREL EFS Server™ can consolidate data and generate an HTML or PDF report that is viewed through the Web Portal. Workflow features allow authorized personnel to track the status of a report and reassign it to a different department or employee as needed.

With built-in security features for controlling access to documents, Web Portal solutions are a secure, cost effective, and flexible way to provide online access to data from legacy systems.

The "No Print" solution for businesses with high-volume printing and mailing needs

Financial institutions and businesses of all kinds print and deliver thousands of statements and reports each month to customers and branch offices. These reports are often printed overnight on high-speed printers and delivered the next day by mail and courier services. In other cases, the entire printing task may be outsourced. Both options are enormously expensive.

With the PIREL "No Print" solution, many of our customers no longer print millions of reports each month. Instead, the PIREL EFS Server™ intercepts data from a mainframe or business application and archives it in a database. When a client or a branch office needs a document, they simply request it from the server. Reports and statements are viewed in a convenient PDF format with a simple web browser, and are printed only when needed.

A "No Print" solution saves money in filing, storage, retrieval, delivery, and manpower costs. It streamlines business processes, and simply makes sense for enterprises with high-volume printing and mailing needs.

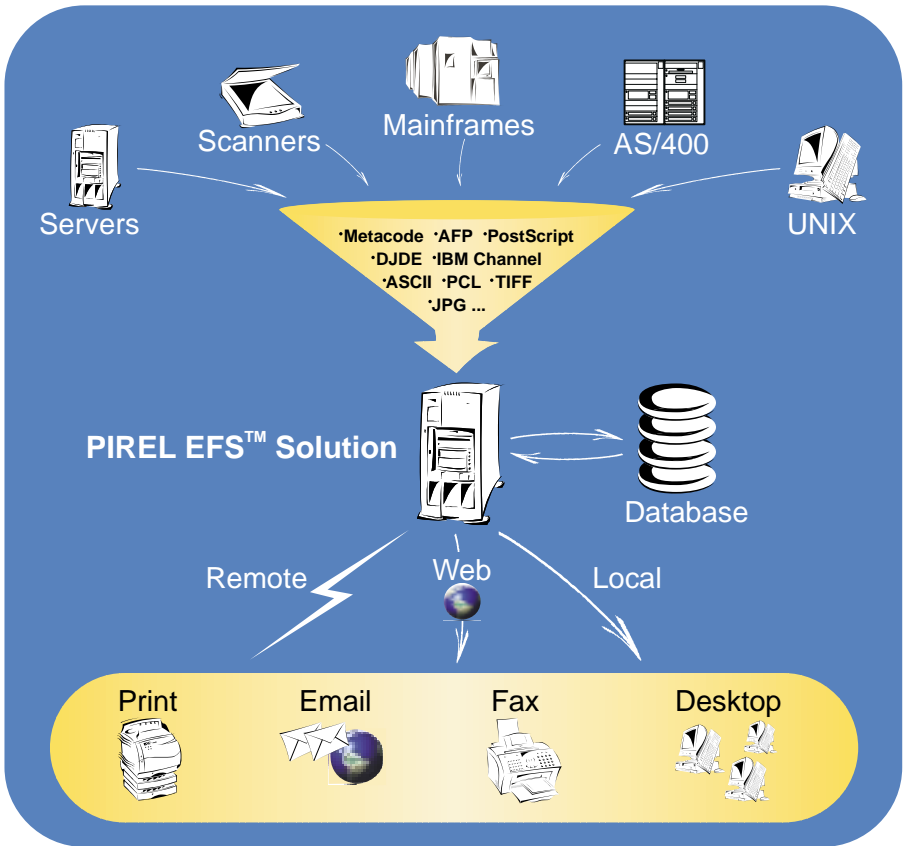
The Payroll Report solution - for enterprises and financial institutions that provide payroll services

Financial institutions that provide payroll services can benefit from the PIREL payroll solution. Using the PIREL EFS Server™, reports can be presented online to customers within hours after receiving payroll data.

This is a win-win solution for everyone. For the customer, payroll reports, deposit notices, or government remittance slips are available just hours after submitting information to the bank. For the bank, the entire report distribution process is streamlined and more cost efficient.

WEB-ENABLE YOUR LEGACY APPLICATIONS

A task made easy with the PIREL EFS solution



The graphic shows just a few possible input and output sources and devices. We believe the PIREL EFS Server™ can receive any input datastream, and can output to the device of your choice. Put us to the test! Contact us by email at challenge@pirel.com or by phone at 1-800-449-5199, ext. 228.

We would be happy to demonstrate how quickly and easily we can put your data online. You will be able to view the results from a simple web browser at your office.

An electronic version of this newsletter is available on our website.

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, fill in the "Subscribe" form found at www.pirel.com/en/newsletter.html.

PIREL welcomes and values your comments, suggestions, and questions. These may be submitted on our website at www.pirel.com/en/contactus.html. We look forward to hearing from you!

A Word from Members of the Management Team

Marketing

Lyne Dépatie - Director of Marketing - ldepatie@pirel.com



The inevitable Internet based future

There is no question that you are all looking for Information Technologies to increase your competitive edge. I don't need to convince anyone that the web is the way of the future. Based on open standards, web technologies are inexpensive and easy-to-use.

An intranet, for example, is one way to combat wasted time, effort, and materials. At the same time, you can generate new opportunities for collaboration and productivity. An organization now has the ability to use one, open-standards, thin client (a web browser) as an interface to corporate data and business applications with the help of solutions such as the ones offered by PIREL.

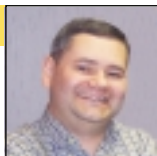
We hear a lot about the benefits of putting business documents online: better communications, gains in process efficiency, improvements in business results, and lower development and delivery costs. But the most tangible benefit, that executives can wrap their arms around, is the reduction in paper costs. Certain statistics quote that 18% of corporate printed material becomes outdated after 30 days. Imagine the situation after 60 or 90 days. Now, imagine if that material were always online and current.

The Return on Investment (ROI) for such process improvements is easy to evaluate. And a quantifiable ROI, combined with the advantages of immediate availability of information are usually key factors in getting budget approval. But too often, complexities related to legacy systems and reports consolidation prevent such a change from happening.

There is help on the market with technologies that can easily interface between the old and the new. That is one of PIREL's strengths, and I encourage you to visit our web site or call to get more information.

Research and Development

Serge Blais - Senior Member of R&D - sblais@pirel.com



Putting your paper documents online

There are many ways to do it, but the flow of information is the same: The PIREL EFS Server™ captures and indexes incoming data from a legacy application or, for example, from a scanned copy using Optical Recognition Software (OCR).

What the server does with the data depends on your requirements. If you need an exact replica of a document or form, our composition engine extracts the data and produces a PDF file. If you want a different look, it is quickly and easily produced, since our composition tool gives us full control of the resulting PDF.

In other cases, keeping the original report is not important. We then extract and index just the required information, and generate dynamic HTML reports. With our Web Portal you are able to view these reports or produce your own custom documents later.

In all cases, enough information is extracted from the original data to allow you to search for, retrieve, and generate documents. Either way, your data is available online through a web application.

For information about our management team, please visit our website at www.pirel.com/en/management_team.html



ATLAS COLD STORAGE

Spotlight on a Customer's Success

Atlas Cold Storage operates the second largest temperature-controlled food distribution network in North America. Atlas has 51 public refrigerated warehouses, strategically located in major distribution centers throughout the United States and Canada. With 276 million cubic feet of refrigerated space, Atlas is able to provide its customers in the frozen and chilled food industry with unsurpassed logistics, distribution, and warehousing services.

With the goal of providing the greatest possible value to customers, Atlas strives to maximize efficiency by investing in state-of-the-art equipment and technologies.

The Challenge

Like many warehousing and distribution companies, Atlas used traditional methods to store warehouse receipts, invoices, and bills of lading. With thousands of documents produced each month, document processing and management required significant manpower and resources, and responding to requests took time.

Atlas wanted to implement a more efficient document management system. They also wanted to improve customer service by providing a quicker response time to inquiries. Since Atlas often sent customers a faxed confirmation of shipments, they needed an automatic fax system.

The PIREL Solution

PIREL proposed an electronic archival solution. The PIREL EFS Server™ captures and indexes data from existing legacy hardware. The server then generates and archives a PDF document. Authorized employees view the document almost immediately using a client application or a web browser. The PIREL EFS Server™ includes an automatic fax feature: documents are sent to a fax server at an Atlas office close to the fax recipient. The fax server then dispatches the document.

The Result

Efficiency at Atlas has improved, since employees have immediate access to invoices, warehouse receipts, and bills of lading from any workstation across the country using only a standard web browser. Customer service is better, since Atlas can provide quicker answers to inquiries. In addition, customers now have almost immediate confirmation of a delivery, since an exact replica of the bill of lading is automatically faxed to their office as soon as a shipment leaves the warehouse. With automatic faxing, Atlas incurs fewer long distance charges because documents are first sent over a network to an Atlas office closest to the customer, and then dispatched by a fax server.

Today, an Atlas employee simply requests a document over the Internet: it is available in a convenient PDF format almost immediately.



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