



### Solution at a Glance

Deployment of a High Availability platform including the redesign of the network, telecommunications and security infrastructure for the purpose of implementing a mission critical ERP application, improving performance and accessibility.

### Technology Deployed

- Microsoft Windows NT Server Enterprise Edition
  - Microsoft Cluster Server
- Hewlett-Packard LXr 8-way, RAID-5, fully clustered application servers
- Hewlett-Packard Fibre Channel external storage subsystem and backup library
- Hewlett-Packard ProCurve enterprise backbone Layer 3 switch
- Cisco PIX firewall and VPN solution for 20-sites and mobile users



**Microsoft**

*Data Storage and Business Continuity*

*Security*

*Horizon, Managed IT Services*

*IP Communications*

*Network Infrastructures*

*Business Systems Management*

*Help Desk "On-Demand"*

*Business Solutions (ACTION, Microsoft Business Solutions, Oracle)*

*Technical Service and Support*

*IT Outsourcing*

*Training*

### Company

The Company is a leading, publicly traded North American manufacturer of automobile replacement fuel tanks and new replacement radiators.

It sells its products through an extensive distribution network including chain store and spare parts dealers in Canada, the United States and Europe. The Company is actively involved in research, development and design and manages its product distribution and customer service from facilities near Montreal and in Ontario.

### Challenge

Rapid growth combined with a series of major acquisitions over a short period of time posed several business and technology challenges for this Company. For one, in order to compete more effectively, the Company had to improve its manufacturing, distribution and customer service operations while simultaneously integrating acquired businesses. To address these issues, the Company decided to implement a JD Edwards Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) application.

In order to implement their ERP solution, several network infrastructure issues would have to be addressed. Firstly, remote sites and mobile users would access the ERP application. Secondly, the underlying network backbone would have to be upgraded to optimize bandwidth and improve overall network performance. Thirdly, the ERP application required a highly available server platform to ensure continuous uptime and scalability for future growth. Finally, the Company's network would have to be fully secured to protect against unwarranted internal and external intrusion.

### Solution

Following an analysis of the client's requirements, ESI Technologies responded with a series of integrated solutions. ESI's telecommunications engineers redesigned the customer's entire backbone in part, through the implementation of

an HP ProCurve Layer 3-backbone switch. ESI also Designed and deployed a High Availability solution using Microsoft's Windows NT Server Enterprise Edition and Microsoft's Cluster Server configured on a fully redundant HP LXr server platform. To address the customer's growing storage requirements, ESI deployed a scalable Fibre Channel external storage subsystem and tape backup library. To address network security issues ESI's security team designed and implemented a Cisco PIX firewall and Internet VPN solution to provide access by 20 remote sites as well as mobile users.

### Result

The customer has benefited significantly from the solutions implemented by ESI. Redesign and upgrade of the backbone served to resolve all bandwidth and network performance issues. The new server platform provided a scalable and highly available foundation for the deployment of the JD Edwards application. Implementation of an external storage system and backup meant that critical data and applications would be protected and would have room for further growth. The implementation of a firewall reassured the customer that its network infrastructure would be secured. The Internet VPN solution represented a cost-effective means to provide secure access for remote offices and mobile users to the ERP system, e-mail and other network resources.

### About ESI Technologies

ESI Technologies is a leading mission critical infrastructure integrator and software solutions developer in Canada. ESI specializes in the development, integration and support of quality IT solutions that ensure the availability, security, management and performance of critical data, applications and networks. As well, ESI develops software solutions tailored to our client's specific business needs and offers integrated business management solutions such as Action, MBS and Oracle. ESI Technologies is headquartered in Montreal, with offices in Toronto and Quebec City.

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