



Cilasoft Offers Rush a Smooth Ride to Security

by Erin Bradford

Rush Trucking, a transportation group founded in 1984 and headquartered in Wayne, Michigan, is an industry leader for truckload and milk-run transportation for short-haul, long-haul, and just-in-time operations. Milk-run transports are those that both deliver and receive goods all along a specified route in order to increase efficiency. Rush makes deliveries all over North America and Canada providing door-to-door service for a variety of products. Rush offers a satellite vehicle tracking system to provide employees with a realtime traffic management tool for manufacturing and distribution decisions. Rush's client list includes Ford Motor, Chrysler, General Motors, Toyota, and Honda. The company has 130 office staff, 330 company drivers, and 350 owner operators under contract, a huge and successful operation under anyone's standards. But when sensitive employee information was shown to have a potential exposure, Rush had to put on the brakes and find a way to keep private info secure.

Finding a Shortcut

Rush runs two i5 model 520 systems that mirror each other. The company has one production system and one hot backup, providing continuous uptime. Every office user has an i5 ID, so in total, Rush has 130 i5 users. Rush's IT department consists of a mere three hard-working folks: an i5 guru, a Microsoft PC expert, and a network administrator who is also the IT manager. Rush's website is also hosted off the i5, running on WebSphere, RPG, and Net.Data.

But as you may have heard, trucking isn't the easiest gig, on or off the road, and Rush was having an issue with security. Explains Bob Gilsdorf, the i5 guru, "We had a problem in that SQL-skilled users could query employee files using ODBC to get personal information. When it was found that users could look up this kind of information, we decided to look for a protection system that used the exit programs of the i5," continues Gilsdorf. Although this type of system seems as if it could have been solved with a homegrown application, Gilsdorf was busy with another project, so he decided that the easiest solution would be to find a third-party supplier "instead of reinventing the wheel."

The search began right here at our very own magazine. Gilsdorf used the System iNetwork site and Google to find the needed exit programs. The subsequent decision was easy. Says Gilsdorf, "I looked at several, and they were all pretty much



FIGURE 1
Rush Trucking headquarters in Wayne, Michigan

the same, so we chose a low-cost one that did what I had no time to do, which was to write the exit programs." I also found that it had several built-in monitoring features, so that I could get notified instantly of an attempt to access specific data [that should have been secured]." Since Rush had no budget for a new solution, Cilasoft's CONTROLER product was perfect: "It was equivalent in price to me writing and debugging the needed exit programs," explains Gilsdorf.

CONTROLER is an active security module that enables control of a System i server via TCP/IP, System i Access, native commands from users, and exchanged data. The solution consists of three modules: the network access control, command control, and an SQL/QRY audit engine. By using IBM exit points, CONTROLER controls external access to the System i, including Telnet, IFS, ODBC, FTP, and DDM files. The solution can also control access via non-IBM middleware. Managers can monitor any OS command in both 5250 or remote mode. CONTROLER also includes a simulation tool, client-access control, commands control, filters options, and a history log.

Rush first tested a 30-day trial of the software, and Gilsdorf admits that it stopped all potential unauthorized access to the private info. The solution was so easy to install that Gilsdorf

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CONTROLER

CASE STUDY

was the only member of the rollout team. The implementation did not require any customization, save for the role swaps of the mirroring system. Explains Gilsdorf, “When I swap roles, I have to change the control points on the systems — removing them from the system going down and adding them to the system coming up. I also found that I needed to stop several host servers on the backup machine to prevent queries from running there while the control points were down.” Setup was a cinch, but Cilasoft still provided Gilsdorf with phone and e-mail support during the process. “A quick read of the manual and a couple of calls to Cilasoft covered the entire product,” admits Gilsdorf.

Rush Sees a Change of Scenery

Gilsdorf was pleasantly surprised with the almost-immediate effectiveness of CONTROLER. “I actually found that some stuff that I had not thought of to test was being done by users who were using programs that I had written. For example, I found that the Java programs that run on the PCs and access i5 data by the use of the class `SQLResultSetTablePane` were attempting to update the i5 database when a cell was changed. Nothing in the Java class documentation said this would or could happen. Data transfer was to be only one way with no

updates. CONTROLER caught the SQL UPDATE coming back and shut it down.”

CONTROLER was also able to block users from accessing locked-down Excel templates. “I still have no idea how they are being called up from the MS server and run on the PCs to access the built-in query, but they do,” sighs Gilsdorf. But not anymore, thanks to CONTROLER. “The block on the i5 keeps users out of the data and lets me know that access was attempted,” says Gilsdorf.

So, this story is simple: Rush needed a solution to keep its locked data safe, and CONTROLER fit the bill in every way. Gilsdorf admits that he just “needed something that I would have written myself if I had the time,” and CONTROLER did just that. A solution that’s as good as something you could write yourself. Now that’s worth traveling for. ■

► **Erin Bradford** is an associate editor for *System iNEWS*.