

MAJOR RETAIL CHAIN INCREASES PRODUCTIVITY WITH AUTOMATED INVOICING

Super Cheap Auto Group, with 285 stores in Australia and New Zealand, has installed a system from AXS-One that has dramatically increased business process efficiencies resulting in financial savings and greater productivity.



THE publicly listed Super Cheap Auto Group is Australasia's leading retailer of automotive, and boating, camping and fishing (BCF) products. Its Supercheap Auto and BCF stores stock over 10,000 items. The Group has 4000 employees and a turnover of more than \$526 million, which is expected to grow to \$800 million by mid 2008.

With such a large number of products and the company's continued growth, the

Super Cheap Group receives approximately 45,000 invoices every month. Efficiencies were needed to manage the process of entering these into its SAP accounting system.

Stephen Fleming, Finance Manager of the Super Cheap Auto Group, said the need was a combination of finding a way to accurately enter the invoices into the system, manage the SAP database that was at a critically

high level of storage and keep staff at the same level.

"AXS-One worked with its business partner Xcelerate IT, a specialist in scanning solutions, recommending a combined solution of AXS-Link for SAP software and Cofax scanning software from Dicom to deliver the solution that met all our business needs.

"This combined system allows all hard copy incoming

invoices to be scanned via optical character recognition, converted to TIFF files and stored in the dedicated AXS-One archive repository. It then posts a link directly in the SAP system for easy access," said Fleming.

"This new business process means we have reduced the amount of manual validation and data entry required. We also find that time spent by staff on administrative tasks such as filing was practically eliminated, which allows them to be refocused on activities of higher value.

"In addition, the system has increased the accuracy of data by automatically posting payments where invoices matched the goods receipts. There is now a trouble-free process of finding and tracking all invoices and a clear audit trail is now visible to everyone," he added.

With storage on the SAP database server at more than 3 terabytes, the Super Cheap Group moved online data to the AXS-One archive, where it continues to be accessible via a link on the server, producing a saving of 500 gigabytes. A further 500 gigabytes have been earmarked for archiving, resulting in further savings.

An AXS-One archive solution has also been deployed on the

company's Microsoft Exchange email servers. AXS-Link for Microsoft Exchange allows the Super Cheap Group to archive email from the email server to a single repository on an ongoing basis. A company policy now sees all email archived after 60 days and after 30 days where emails and their attachments are larger than 5 megabytes.

This has resulted in improved performance making it easier for employees to manage their mailboxes, saving them unnecessary administrative time in sorting and deleting old emails. IT staff also benefit with reduced server backup times. Additional storage cost savings have been made using AXS-One's 'single instance storage' capability, where a single copy of every email and attachment is

archived, regardless of how many people receive it.

All archived emails and invoices can easily be retrieved through a web-based browser environment, and because they are stored as Write Once Read Many (WORM), they can't be deleted, moved or altered in any way, thereby providing added protection for the organisation.

Because there is less data on the servers, SAP server backup times have been reduced by

approximately 30 per cent and performance has also increased.

Fleming said the accessibility and completeness of records now meets the company's business requirements.

"Considerable business growth has been experienced over the past twelve months from when the AXS-One system was installed. Not only do we find that 100 per cent of transactions are electronically processed and stored, we

achieved this without adding any new employees and increasing our productivity," he added.

Both AXS-Link for SAP and AXS-Link for Microsoft Exchange are part of the AXS-One Compliance Platform that allows organisations to implement secure, scalable and enforceable policies, which address records compliance management for corporate governance and legal discovery, as well as state and federal legislation.

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