

## VIRTEL: The Web to Host solution chosen by Atos Worldline

Atos Worldline chose SysperTec's Virtel to web-enable their point-of-sale order processing application for the Majuscule stationery retailing chain. 

### THE CHALLENGE FOR ATOS WORLDLINE: TO OPEN ITS MAINFRAME APPLICATIONS TO THE INTERNET WITHOUT COMPROMISING SECURITY

Atos Worldline, a subsidiary of the information services group Atos Origin, specialises in payment services, CRM, and Multichannel Contact. Atos Worldline, on behalf of its clients, hosts, manages, and develops information systems using its own IT platforms.

Majuscule, a cooperative of independent stationers and booksellers, entrusts the management of its information systems to the Atos Origin group, and has done so since 1985. The service consists principally of hosting and operating a mainframe application (MVS, CICS) for order processing, tracking, and invoicing. The members of the Majuscule group originally used Minitel (Videotex) connections to access the service.

In 2002, at the request of their client Majuscule, Atos Origin looked for a solution which could **put their mainframe application on-line via the Internet, making it accessible both from the Web and from Minitel, without any modification and at minimum cost.** The objective was to make the application simpler and more usable without sacrificing its reliability and without fundamentally changing its presentation, since it was a production application.

Majuscule's requirements were very precise:

- The solution must be capable of being implemented **rapidly**.
- It must be possible to access the application **simultaneously** from **Minitel** and from the **Internet** in order to allow a phased migration.
- The presentation of the application on the Internet should be enhanced with additional **navigation** elements

incorporating the **ergonomics of the Web** (mouse, scroll bars, combo boxes, radio buttons, check boxes, etc.).

- **No rewriting** of the existing application should be required.
- The solution should be delivered at a **very competitive cost**.
- Finally, Majuscule wished to create a **gateway** linking their existing extranet site for point of sale information with the order processing application.

Atos Origin added an additional constraint to the specification: to be able to **integrate the solution into its highly secure IT architecture**, which prohibits direct access from the Internet and places all of the servers in a firewall protected zone (DMZ). This constraint was vital because, as a facilities management provider, Atos Origin is subject to very strict security audits to guarantee the integrity of the systems it hosts.

### SYSPERTEC'S SOLUTION: VIRTEL WEB TO HOST

SysperTec Communication was placed against two competitive solutions, **Majuscule and Atos Worldline selected SysperTec's Virtel Web to Host.**

**Several reasons for this choice: the cost (ten times less than the competition), the simplicity of implementation, and the fact that the solution did not require any additional development.**

Virtel, SysperTec's flagship software product, works on the principle of establishing **communication gateways** (Web to Host, Host for Web, Host Web Services, emulations, etc.) which open up 3270 legacy applications to heterogeneous terminals and servers via various networks and protocols including TCP/IP, HTML, XML, Internet, X25, XTP, XOT, and Videotex.

Virtel is designed to allow access from heterogeneous environments. By simply setting parameters, a host application can be simultaneously accessed from the Internet and from Minitel, without the need for any application development, neither on the host nor on an intermediate platform, thus avoiding costly and often complicated procedures.

To meet Atos Worldline's security requirements, Virtel was able to integrate into their n-tier architecture. To achieve this, SysperTec implemented a servlet (a Java program running on a server and requiring Unix skills) to interface with the **security audit and control procedures** which are standard at Atos Worldline.

Because no application rewrite was necessary and no cross-platform MVS/UNIX skills were required, **implementation of Virtel was achieved in a very short time span (less than one month), without any interruption to production operations.** Furthermore the integration of Virtel into Atos Worldline's IT architecture allowed transparent reuse of operational and production monitoring tools.

### A VERY FAVORABLE RESULT

Today, the Majuscule order processing application is available both via Minitel and over the Internet, thanks to the SysperTec solution. The system handles between 1,000 and 1,500 connections per month, which equates to about 60,000 order items.

The users are satisfied with the solution, which provides easy access to the application and allows them to obtain **responses to their requests in less than one second.**

For Atos Worldline too, the **result is very satisfactory.** *"The SysperTec solution runs perfectly",* says Michel Godier, Manager for Architectures and Large Projects at Atos Worldline. *"The system architecture is very well designed and allows a sizable transaction volume to be processed in a short time. Majuscule's requirements for reliability, efficiency, and simplicity have been met."*