Customer Solution Case Study

SeaBird Exploration:
Ship to Shore and Back Again

What is the best way to ensure compliance with standards in a maritime environment?
SeaBird Exploration is drawing new charts as it discovers how satellite-enabled replication technology can help its project team members work smarter, using information which is up-to-date for all users globally. The Replicator solution for SharePoint™ supports community building and project collaboration between various groups distributed world-wide, including nine deep-sea vessels, Cyprus head office, two technical centers in Norway, and numerous operational locations around the globe.

The Need

Like many companies operating at sea, and complying with Health Safety Security Environmental Quality (HSSEQ) standards, SeaBird Exploration has completed 'due diligence', searching for an IT solution that would best support its operations. With 500 employees in Cyprus, Norway, Texas, Singapore, Dubai, and on the high seas, SeaBird required a solution that would meet its needs now and in the future.

According to Stig Mathiassen, VP of Information Systems, "We were looking to develop an on-the-fly management solution, featuring bi-directional replication, from ship to shore and back again.

The Solution

It was the requirement for seamless communications around the globe that led SeaBird Exploration to Syntergy's Replicator.

Mr. Mathiassen continues, "We had SharePoint and Replicator installed by October 2005, linking our offices around the globe. The solution was installed and running on each ship by January 2006. Even though some of

Vital Statistics

Products:
Replicator for SharePoint™

Customer:
SeaBird Exploration

Industry:
Seismic Data Acquisition

Website:
www.sbexp.com

Applications:
1. HSSEQ compliance
2. Bi-directional ship-to-shore communications

Benefits:
- Scalability
- Bi-directional replication across firewall
- Real-time replication
- Local access to documents
- Employee satisfaction
- RDC (Remote Differential Compression) Replication – 90% or more savings in bandwidth
- Community building and project collaboration from remote sites around the globe

our links use internet connections, and the links to our ships use satellite connections, we couldn't believe how easy it was to implement Replicator. By replicating the look and feel components of the main SharePoint site, each of these replicated instances is virtually identical in appearance and consistent in branding."

SeaBird Exploration felt it could better support its maritime and international workers using Replicator. Mr. Mathiassen says, "Replicator is an integral part of the solution which made this possible. Everybody needs access to this system. We use the system to make job descriptions, work permits, forms, infopax, pictures, spreadsheets, large seismic files, compliance documents, and a complete set of operating procedures available to all users. The system must be reliable, always available, and tolerant of weather-induced anomalies."

The Benefits

To date, the most measurable benefit has been a reduction in bandwidth. According to Mr. Mathiassen, "Because Replicator only pushes the changes to each document, rather than a full copy of each document when edits are made, we have saved significantly on satellite bandwidth charges, and our servers are up-to-date with the latest versions of each document in minutes, not hours.

The product is very robust, and any time there is a weather-related service outage, Replicator resumes transmission exactly where it left off. There is no back-tracking required to resume replication operations. The solution has been very effective and Replicator is a large part of that."

The Future

According to Mr. Mathiassen, "Our future plans involve setting up a replication link to our new operational office in Dubai, to support major seismic projects in the region. Our current link there is tenuous, and communications are painfully slow. On average, users are waiting up to five minutes to download documents. We expect that deploying Replicator will enable users to operate unhindered by local communications issues."

*"*__Replicator took only a couple of hours to configure and then it was up and running. It wasn't a difficult decision to choose Syntergy.__*"*

**Stig Mathiassen,
VP Information Systems,
SeaBird Exploration
Norway AS**