



“AutoFORM LaserNet Automates Sales Order Processing, by Eliminating Manual Data Entry”

Overview

■ Challenge

To dramatically reduce manual data entry in processing highly complex orders from pharmacies and goods inwards documents. Accuracy is critical

To ensure a quick and effective order process, particularly with a view to converting customers and suppliers product numbers and quantity units to Nomeco's protocol.

To get even closer to 100% order delivery accuracy.

■ IT Applications

AS/400, Astra, DB/2

■ Solution

AutoFORM LaserNet to provide:

Automated data extraction, formatting and database look up of missing data for CSV, XML, PDF, MS WORD and EXCEL documents.

Interaction with multiple databases for automated data verification and 'look-ups.'

Conversion of product numbers 'on the fly' so they are in line with Nomeco's internal product numbers.

Central maintenance

■ Why LaserNet?

“It was the only solution that actually worked. In particular AutoFORM LaserNet could cope with the complexity and variety of different input formats, whilst delivering the data to our ERP accurately.”

■ Is it for you?

AutoFORM LaserNet can dramatically reduce the level of manual data entry, for invoice, delivery note and sales order processing. AutoFORM LaserNet is fundamentally more accurate than OCR and provides computer to computer data exchange without the expense of EDI.



Kim J. Nissen, System Coordinator at Nomeco, Denmark's leading pharmaceutical wholesaler and distributor, comments on a new IT development to minimise manual data entry, that overcomes the cost & technical barriers associated with EDI.

KIM J Nissen: “In the Pharmaceutical industry every company uses advanced IT solutions to improve efficiency and productivity. However, there remains one common area of difficulty: high levels of time consuming manual data entry when processing incoming purchase orders, supplier delivery notes and their associated invoices.”

“While EDI systems such as EDIFACT, have enabled many companies to automate order processing when they are dealing with a few major organisations, the costs of investing in EDI are frankly too prohibitive for many of our SME customers and suppliers, not to mention the difficulties of agreeing a common data profile with several hundred different companies. Instead, our customers and suppliers prefer to use other formats, ranging from comma-separated files (CSV), Word, Excel, email PDF attachments and faxes, as well as good old paper. This meant that we had to resort to printing off each instruction, looking up our own product codes and then manually keying in the data into our ERP system. This not only caused delays, restricting our ability to reduce delivery times it could, at times, lead to errors. Whilst we did consider using OCR, we would still need to enter our own product codes and convert the order quantities to our carton sizes, which would mitigate any other time savings.”

Output & Document Management

Nissen continues: "For several years, Nomeco searched for a more suitable input management system, but no one could cope with the variety of different formats or give us the data transfer accuracy we needed. However, when our IT consultants, Digital House, introduced us to AutoFORM LaserNet for our output management needs, it suddenly occurred to us that LaserNet's ability to manage a variety of outgoing formats, could be turned on its head and used for input document management. This led to a joint development project with our consultants and EFS Technology .

"In addition to mimising data entry, LaserNet also automatically converts the suppliers' product codes to Nomeco's own coding system. A major time and error saver!"

Success!

Nissen says "LaserNet Input Manager has proved to be a huge success. LaserNet has not only significantly cut the time & cost to process orders, it has also virtually eliminated input errors."

"With LaserNet we have taken the various incoming documents one at a time and mapped all the data fields onto XML-formatted files, which are then transferred to our own ERP system. We do this once for each document and the next time LaserNet does it automatically."

The LaserNet Input solution also includes automatic conversion of product and supplier numbers from the suppliers' various numbering systems to Nomeco's own numbering system. This happens automatically with the help of online database searches as the documents are handled by LaserNet.

Saves Many Working Hours per Day

"LaserNet improves efficiency and productivity," says Kim J. Nissen: "There are still one or two types of documents that we have to handle manually, such as faxes, but the vast majority of documents are now converted by LaserNet without manual intervention. This has released each member of staff from an average two hours per day of tedious data entry allowing them to spend their time on more profitable tasks. In addition, the data transfer now takes place the instant we receive the documents—without delay. This reduces our delivery times as goods are available for onward shipment almost as soon as they arrive.

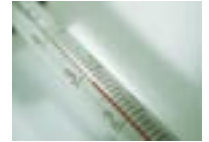
The project was so successful, that Nomeco are now looking to extend the solution to the rest of the Group.

The solution that EFS Technology adapted for Nomeco is now being offered as part of the AutoFORM LaserNet Suite of document management solutions. However, the project also highlights how easily EFS Technology can tailor their products to suit an individual company's precise needs.

"A Great Product and a Great Company!"

Nissen comments: "Digital House promised that the system would be launched before the end of 2005 and that target was met. All in all, the implementation team have proved to be extremely competent people with a deep technical knowledge of their product.

"In short, we've had an excellent collaboration during which we've seen how versatile a product AutoFORM LaserNet is. We've bought a licence for the entire suite and in the coming years we will use it in a number of other areas, such as e-invoicing, archiving and workflow management."



Denmark's Largest Pharmaceutical Wholesaler

With close to 700 employees, Nomeco is Denmark's largest pharmaceutical wholesaler, offering drug manufacturers and pharmacies a wealth of services in transport, logistics, storage, stock management, order processing, labelling and repackaging of pharmaceuticals.

Nomeco's clients comprise more than 90 pharmaceutical manufacturers, for whom it handles such important jobs as stock management, cooling, labelling, repackaging and distribution. It is an extremely complex logistics task, which demands that the products must always be on the shelves and that the clients at the other end – pharmacies and hospitals – must always be able to obtain the drugs they need. For this reason Nomeco's five divisions are open for orders and delivery 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Nomeco was established through a series of fusions between some of Denmark's oldest and largest pharmaceutical wholesalers. Its mission is as follows: "To develop and offer logistics and service solutions through value-adding partnerships with our clients, thus ensuring that consumers get the medications they need when they need them."



Digital House A/S

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