

Case Study: Carver International, Erie, PA

Carver International, www.carverinternational.com, has supported its operations using DataEase for DOS (DFD) for many years. It is a completely home-grown system of 66 forms and over 200 menus. Remarkably, there are no menus and every single report is a Query by Example (Quick Report). There are no DQLs whatsoever and these reports print dozens of forms needed by their business.

After providing his DFD app to us at PLM Consulting for analysis Gary decided he wanted to perform the conversion himself with our assistance when needed. Our analysis revealed a few problems with his app and we showed him techniques in Ffenics for correcting them. Part of this was the elimination of choice fields with ARD lookups.

The project started in December of last year and they have begun testing/using the system this April. They have 8 users and 5 of them are using Ffenics Runtimes.

Here are a couple of their stated objectives from last year:

"We would like to send emails or faxes to clients, ocean carriers, service providers, etc., especially the documents that we create in the system." Another was how to create a button on a form to: "Run this report for this record displayed on screen."

We plan to teach Gary how to implement the emailing/faxing part now that he has built all the forms and many of the reports needed. He has done this himself with occasional tech support from us to learn other techniques. There are also plans for creating a menu structure to guide his staff through the various processes. We connect to his system using PCAnywhere and talk on the phone as we show him how to solve his problems.

Carver International did try a third party solution from a vertical market provider, but the software (windows based) was not as capable as their DataEase system so they have abandoned it. (It wasn't cheap either!)

So far, they are extremely pleased with Ffenics and its ease of use. It is not every company that wants to do it themselves, but it is an option you might want to consider.

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