S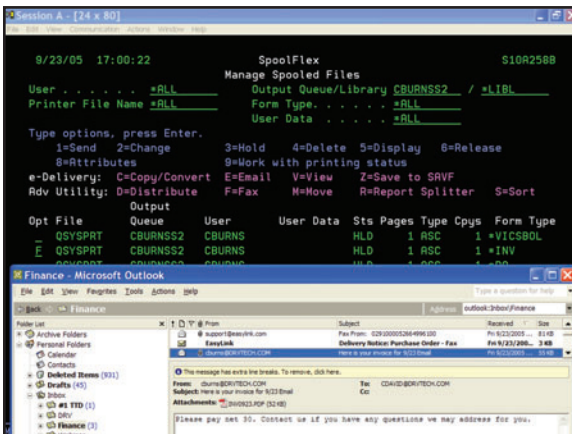elkirk L.L.C. is a world-leading manufacturer of registers, grilles, diffusers, and chimney and gas venting product lines. Headquartered in Richardson, Texas, Selkirk distributes its products through wholesale distribution, retail outlets, and commercial/industrial plan–spec projects.

Selkirk's high volume of order and shipment data requires a robust, reliable report distribution tool. That tool, for Selkirk, is DRV Technologies' SpoolFlex. "Spoolflex has features that enable our users to convert AS/400 reports to an Excel file, text, or a PDF, with the options to either e-mail or fax them," says Robert DeLeon, systems operation manager at Selkirk. "They also have the ability to schedule these conversions to run automatically within the job scheduler. We're really using all these features."

Prior to using SpoolFlex, Selkirk used a manual process for sending out advance shipment notices and order confirmations to customers. "We had a fax press, and software that would get a spool file from the AS/400 and convert it to a form that we would fax out," says Ron Davis, Selkirk's network manager. "But it took somebody from IT to go in and manually send them out."

That job could take an hour, or "it could take half a day, depending on how many orders we had," says DeLeon. "If we had any problems, (the process) could last a day or two days."

Selkirk began searching for a solution that would eliminate this cumbersome, manual process and move report distribution into the nightly batch process. It already used a third party, internet-based e-mail to fax program that worked well, so the new tool had to also be flexible enough to integrate with that application.

Immediately, the SpoolFlex solution became Selkirk's top choice. "The selling point was that SpoolFlex offers the users

a lot of different options," says DeLeon. "It automated a manual process, and it also had an auditing feature that allowed us to resend or audit any file that we feel might have a discrepancy."

SpoolFlex can help with compliance processes by automatically converting iSeries reports to electronic formats such as PDF, Excel, Word, HTML, TXT, XML, and CSV for distributing and electronic filing to an IFS or network server. It offers advanced formatting options for Excel that let you change column headings, move data and entire columns, mask or extract data based on conditional variables, and more, eliminating potential for human error, another compliance plus. The auditing feature DeLeon refers to is the SpoolFlex Audit Trail, an add-on module that tracks and details when and where reports have been distributed — to whom, by whom, and by which delivery method — and provides the ability to resend with just two keystrokes.

SpoolFlex lets you email directly from the iSeries; the Email2Fax module interfaces to an internet fax service, enabling users to fax reports and forms directly from the iSeries as well as from a user's PC, with no additional hardware or phone lines required.

SpoolFlex provides Selkirk with a more secure, more stable, and more reliable report distribution tool, eliminating the expense and hassle of manual processing. The SpoolFlex flat, modular pricing makes it affordable for any organization to do the same, whether your business is healthcare, manufacturing, finance, distribution, education or a government agency.

To find out more, or to arrange a demonstration of SpoolFlex, please call 866-378-3366.