

Casino Saves Time and Aggravation using SpoolFlex to convert IBM i financial data to perfectly formatted Excel reports.

“It really changed the way we do things.”

Overview: Multi-venue casino relies heavily on financial reports



The South Point Casino, Hotel, and Spa (www.southpointcasino.com) in Las Vegas, Nevada is a place people go to relax and enjoy themselves. With more venues than most small towns, the large number of guests and gamblers, and the fact that the casino is a regulated industry, it's crucial that South Point keep its accounting in tip-top shape. During the day, they print numerous financial reports. In

the past, they either printed the reports to green bar paper or accessed them on the AS/400 with several tedious steps.

Now SpoolFlex by DRV Technologies (www.drvttech.com) prints the casino's financial reports to Excel, saving hours of work each day. By pressing just a few keys, users can instantly access AS/400 reports that SpoolFlex has reformatted into Excel. Even better, the reports are perfectly formatted and ready to manipulate, which eliminates the need for the users to manually reformat the data.

Customer Profile: South Point Casino, Hotel, and Spa

South Point Casino is located in the heart of the southwest Las Vegas valley, minutes away from the Las Vegas Strip. The casino boasts numerous amenities for guests, such as a 16-screen movie complex, 64-lane bowling center, a hotel, several restaurants – even a renowned equestrian center. Almost like a mini-city, South Point has over 900 employees to keep its facilities running.

Problem: Accounting needed to manipulate financial data

“Our main problem was getting reports in a digital format that our users could easily manipulate,” said Deanna Thompson, Applications Manager at South Point Casino. Furthermore, the reports had to be presentable and the conversion mechanism easy-to-use since many of the accounting employees were not advanced computer users.

The process the casino was using to get reports from the AS/400 involved several steps using the AS/400 operations navigator to access a converted file in the printer out queue. The user then dragged the file over to their desktop. “It was really painful,” said Thompson. “The application was very slow and constantly required updates. If it wasn't the right version, it would blue screen their computers. Also, the navigation was difficult and the text file imported horribly.” Users often had to manually reformat the data to make it readable.

Continued ...

Customer Profile

South Point Casino, Hotel, and Spa –
Las Vegas, Nevada

The South Point Casino, Hotel, and Spa is considered small compared to some casino/hotels in Las Vegas. However, it's big on amenities, offering its guests multiple restaurants, a 16-screen movie theatre, bowling alley, a luxurious spa, and more.

Existing Technology

IBM AS/400® platform running Oracle JDEdwards EnterpriseOne, as well as other applications needed for the slot system, club system, marketing functions, and so forth.

Objective

South Point Casino needed a quick and user-friendly way for the users in its Accounting department to convert reports from the AS/400 into data they could manipulate in Excel.

Solution

SpoolFlex by DRV Technologies

Benefits

- Converts reports to PDF, Excel, HTML, and Word.
- Distributes reports to file servers or via email.
- Bursts a single report into separate reports or combines multiple reports into one.
- No programming required
- Very affordable (pays for itself in paper savings alone).

Cost

Less than \$5,000

Solution: A great combination of price and ease-of-use

When Thompson received a flyer from DRV Technologies in the mail, she immediately downloaded the demo version and tried it out. "It blew my mind because it was so easy to use. I could see how simple it would be for the users in accounting."

Thompson was already excited about SpoolFlex's possibilities and reasonable price, but she worried about the complexities of their accounting reports. "We have huge financial reports with table drops and spot drops."

She called DRV with her concerns and was delighted when DRV told her they would map the casino's reports to Excel, a service that's included in the cost of the software.

"We were so convinced about buying SpoolFlex that we had it installed within a day of hearing about it," said Thompson. She sent DRV 40 reports and was pleased with the quick turnaround. Currently, SpoolFlex converts approximately 50 of the casino's financial reports to PDF or Excel.

Users in the Accounting department readily accepted SpoolFlex as a much simpler way to get reports in a workable format. "This is the only application I've installed where I haven't received negative feedback – that's awesome," said Thompson. "People were knocking on the door to get access to it."

Thompson estimated that SpoolFlex saves South Point Casino about three hours per day because users (including herself) no longer have to manually reformat text file reports or print the reports to green bar paper. "There's less use of green bar paper and paper in general," reported Thompson.

"Accounting never could have exported reports to Excel before. Everything they do is in Excel. It has really helped the way they do things."

"DRV has done a great job in making their application user-friendly, even for the system administrators."

"Usually when we implement new software, we get a lot of adverse reaction. People don't like change. But SpoolFlex was different. They all want me to show them how to use it."

"I was blown away by SpoolFlex and thought, 'I have to have this.' And the price was right."

"DRV has very good customer service."

*Deanna Thompson,
Applications Manager,
South Point Casino*

Using SpoolFlex to Extract Mailing List Data

Thompson also handles the database marketing at the casino, which involves querying the Customer Management System on the AS/400 and extracting customer contact information for email or mailing promotions.

The extraction process used to involve multiple steps of downloading the file, reformatting the text, and importing it into SQL. "Now," Thompson said, "I output my queries to SpoolFlex, download the data as text, and it's already formatted for me. It's saving me quite a bit of time."

Evaluation

Thompson is a proficient computer user; it took her less than an hour to install SpoolFlex. Within a day, she had it up and running. But even she was surprised that, after her initial call to DRV, she's never had to call their in-house technical support in the year-and-a-half the casino has used SpoolFlex.

Thompson's favorite feature is one she's not using yet: report distribution via email. "I've seen it in action and tested it. We can run a report at a specific time every day and email it to specific people."

Once the casino implements these advanced features, SpoolFlex will be doing even more behind the scenes to help the casino run smoothly.