



Case Study – An Post

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An Post use HAPPI to provide access to Employee Payroll & Personnel Information via Secure Web Services.

Business Problem

An Post use Cyborg Payroll, HR & Pensions products to pay their employee salaries and to manage their employee personnel & pensions information.

These systems generate thousands of records every day which are updated into Grapevine's HAPPI data warehouse, adding to a data archive that now contains over 15 years of historical payroll, personnel & pensions information.

An Post's key business objective was to allow other internal Enterprise Systems and Applications, such as their 'Employee Web Portal' to securely access certain information without having to access the Cyborg systems directly.

Syl Byrne – IT Manager Remuneration Services in An Post "We required a new way to allow other An Post systems to access confidential payroll, personnel and pensions data securely and quickly. Using HAPPI was the obvious choice as it allowed us to provide a standard access method using web services rather than each system building their own interface or using unsecure data access methods such as ODBC."

Solution

An Post have used Grapevine Solutions HAPPI product since 1998 to archive the large volumes of historical payroll, personnel and pensions information that are generated by the Cyborg systems.

HAPPI currently contains over 15 years of historical information with the latest information being updated on a daily basis.

Since HAPPI was first installed, Grapevine have developed additional systems and applications for An Post that utilise the data contained in HAPPI. Some of these applications include: -

- SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise Reporting System
- Pensions Administration System
- Employee Service & Benefits System
- Working Time Directive System

HAPPI was selected to meet An Post's requirement to provide access to different types of employee information.

Using HAPPI's Caché database engine Grapevine developed a suite of Web Services that could be called by other systems to retrieve employee information directly from the HAPPI database.

Access to specific employee data fields is controlled using parameters included in the web service definition.

Each web service is also secured using username, password and IP authentication to ensure that the web services can only be called by authorised users.

The Web Services are accessible from multiple HAPPI database servers providing continuous availability 24X7.

Benefits

- Web services conform to SOAP standards and can be easily integrated with any An Post Enterprise System or Application.
- Both current & historical employee information can be accessed quickly & securely.
- Other systems do not need to know the data structures within HAPPI.
- Other systems do not need to develop custom interfaces to retrieve data from HAPPI.
- Access to data is securely controlled and audited.
- New web services can be quickly developed to cater for additional information requirements.

About An Post

An Post is one of Ireland's largest companies directly employing over 9,500 employees through its national network of retail, processing & delivery points.

About Grapevine Solutions

Grapevine Solutions provides software solutions & products to clients in the public sector, finance, telecoms and healthcare.