

PIERCE COUNTY



Using MBF-UDALink, a multi-functional website allows customers to access permit information stored on the HP e3000

Responding to requests from the public to provide an alternative method of providing permit information, Pierce County turned to the web. Recognizing the flexibility offering this information online, Pierce County formed a user group comprising of staff and community members to assist in designing the site and providing the information. The main objectives were to provide the public with easy access to a wide variety of permit information in a user friendly, self-navigating site.

With over 12 million rows of data on their HP e3000, Pierce County was concerned about the speed and efficiency of the site. MB Foster's MBF-UDALink (formerly DataExpress) was chosen as the mechanism by which information in the Planning and Land Services Department could be kept current and accessible. "While there was a need to create some additional tables on the HP e3000," says Raymond Odem, Software Developer, Pierce County, "the impact to the computer operations has been minimal. All backups and restores are handled in a routine manner."

Pierce County selected MBF-UDALink as it met the specified requirements for this new site, including ease of use, ability to handle complex SQL statements and speed. The site was built using the MPE operating system with an Omnidex enhanced Image database; a SUN box with a Sybase database and an NT server. Software included ColdFusion, Java Script and HTML.

Two other companies also receiving prizes for web enabling their 3000 were Calsonic -- North America (2nd place) and Techneglas (3rd place). Both companies' sites were designed in response to their users' requests. With Calsonic, an automotive supplier, their site allows suppliers to work more closely with them by providing self-service inquiries on payments, processing, order status and more. The Techneglas site also allows customers to see orders, shipments and payments. Phase 2 of this site will see Techneglas accepting data into their HP e3000.

Many of the contestants used different approaches in the design and use of their sites, several used different applications and have different relationships to the user. Many companies were using the web to handle order status, inventory, shipping, HMO online details and return/repair info. However, the main theme from all entries was self-service... listening to the customer's requests and using the web to deliver information that is timely and easy for the customer to access and process.

The rules of the contest were simple -- demonstrate how MB Foster products are helping you Webify your HP e3000. Products available were MBF-UDALink (ODBC/UDALink) or our ODBCLink/SE driver, which is included with MPE Ver. 5.5 and higher. The first place winner Pierce County receives \$5,000 US cash and a trip to Philadelphia to demonstrate their winning technologies at this year's HP World in September.

MB Foster focuses on Data Access and Delivery in the HP market. Our products take advantage of any desktop environment and access is provided to all HP data sources. End users will find it easier to access corporate data on mixed platforms without having to understand the underlying complexities. A HP Lab and Channel partner, MB Foster delivers emerging technologies that integrate within your existing environment.

**"The impact to the computer operations has been minimal."
Says Raymond Odem, Software Developer, Pierce County**

