

**CUSTOMER**

ACME Truck Line Inc.

INDUSTRY

Transportation

LOCATION

United States

Number of Locations

70

SYSTEM

Sage CRM

ACME Truck Line Selects Sage CRM to Drive Its Customer Service Network

Founded in 1960, ACME Truck Line Inc. is a flatbed trucking service with a fleet of 1,300 trucks. It handles 4,000 loads weekly, each weighing 50-50,000 pounds. Specializing in short hauls of 100-180 miles within the Gulf Coast states, the company maintains 70 offices throughout the South and wanted to link these offices with Web-based applications and streamline its entire business infrastructure.

"We had been relying on separate LANs in each of our offices to facilitate local operations," explains Mike Coatney, president of ACME Truck Line, "but were unable to leverage information across offices. As the price of broadband links decreased, however, we realized that we could create a Web-based WAN between all of our offices so that every individual in our company could leverage common data to improve internal operations as well as the customer experience."

CRM ... and Then Some

To facilitate the company's operational improvements, Coatney searched for a Web-based CRM solution capable of delivering



a consolidated view of customer activities to every staff member involved with clients, including sales staff, dispatchers, and the credit/collections department. In addition, the solution had to support sales force automation tasks; for example, delivering—through a wireless PDA device—critical information used by field sales staff to convert prospects to customers and ensure customer satisfaction.

Coatney also wanted management tools to allow regional sales managers the ability to track and analyze each phase of the field sales effort and share data with national account management staff. In order to accommodate such broad utilization of customer and sales account data, the system

CHALLENGE

ACME Truck Line needed to provide employees with Web-based and PDA access to customer data across 70 offices distributed throughout the South.

SOLUTION

Sage CRM provides full sales force, marketing, and customer care automation—all of which can be accessed over the Web or through a wireless PDA device.

RESULTS

Up-to-date, comprehensive availability of customer data enhances client-customer relationships; system simplifies data entry procedures; and streamlined procedures reduce overhead.

"We have built our business for more than 40 years by offering the best possible customer service consistent with available technologies ... and Sage CRM is empowering us to continue that commitment. By giving our managers, sales staff, and dispatchers the information they need to address all customer issues, this solution is letting us streamline operational overhead and strengthen customer relationships with outstanding service."

—Mike Coatney
President
ACME Truck Line Inc.

ABOUT SAGE SOFTWARE

Sage Software has been responding to the needs, challenges, and dreams of small and mid-sized businesses for over 25 years. With a complete range of business management solutions and services, Sage Software helps companies improve customer relationships, reduce costs, and automate and integrate a variety of operational activities. Its solutions support the specialty needs of a broad scope of industry segments, including manufacturing, distribution, construction, real estate, nonprofit, and professional services.



needed a robust security capability that would limit "read" and/or "write" access features to specific individuals. Finally, the entire solution had to be easy to use.

"This is a trucking business: we pick up something at point A and bring it to point B," Coatney says. "There is virtually no consultative selling or complex technical customer support. Our processes are simple and straightforward and we needed a solution that was equally simple."

Sage CRM Meets Every Requirement

After a lengthy market search and detailed proposals from five vendors, ACME Truck Line turned to the only solution that met each of its requirements—Sage CRM. "The solution was easy to implement," Coatney says. "With the help of the Sage Software Professional Services Group, we were up and running and fully integrated with our existing IBM AS/400 back-office applications over the course of a few months."

ACME Truck Line's Sage CRM solution enhances the all-important client-customer relationship by providing an integrated framework for applying value-added services and support to new and existing customers. Using its new system, the company was able to simplify many of its procedures.

Once a sales rep meets with a new customer, he completes electronic forms provided by Sage CRM on his wireless PDA. In addition to standardized fields such as name, address, and industry, the rep is prompted for information about the potential business opportunity and competing trucking services being used by the prospect. If this form is not completed within a pre-specified interval, the system automatically alerts the sales rep for further action.

All of this data, along with information about subsequent customer activities, is centrally stored in the Sage CRM database where it can be leveraged by authorized users. Before a national accounts manager visits a customer, for example, he can obtain up-to-the-minute information about issues that may have occurred at any of the customer's multiple sites serviced by ACME Truck Line, and can address them directly with the customer.

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