

#### Company Background

Consolidated Bearing Co. (CBC, [www.conbear.com](http://www.conbear.com)) is headquartered in Sydney, Australia and responds to the bearing requirements of Australian industry with the largest bearing inventory and distribution network. They employ over 600 staff in more than 60 branches around the country, often in remote outback locations. To meet the complex demands of mining and heavy industries, CBC has a team of internationally trained and experienced, highly specialised, technical personnel.

To support these staff CBC use an ERP system known as IMAS (Integrated Accounting Management System). Originally developed by IBM, IMAS is now available through Golden Key and associate companies. IMAS consists of several core modules (e.g. GL, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Inventory, Order Entry etc..) plus additional modules developed to address specific industry needs.



#### Problem

CBC's customers needed effective, reliable and 'live' access to the CBC system.

CBC had already tried a client/java based solution to provide connectivity for their distributors. The existing product was successful across single user sites but was unreliable across multi-user sites traversing one communication node.

Screen performance is a very important aspect for CBC. Some of CBC's distributors use a dial-up connection, which is the only way to get to the Internet from some of their remote locations in Australia. Delays or unreliability in accessing the CBC system was not an acceptable outcome. CBC's distributors are located throughout Australia, some in remote places, so a web-based solution made the most sense.

The challenge was to find a solution that could be administered from the iSeries, be very fast across multi-user sites and dial-up lines, and not require any special software to be loaded on the clients' desktops.

#### Solution

CBC looked at several web-enablement solutions, but decided very quickly to choose aXes from Arterial Software. "We were looking for a product that was easy to install, configure and maintain" said Rick Masjuk, IT Manager CBC.

Installation took less than 30 minutes by just loading a couple of libraries and starting the aXes server. Also, aXes has a very light footprint - the entire solution only took about 10Mb of disk space on CBC's iSeries and consumed very little CPU and memory. CBC was very impressed with how quickly aXes solved their needs and the level of customer service provided by Arterial Software.

Since aXes is a true 'zero' client, there was nothing that needed to be installed on their distributors' desktops. The client simply needs the Internet Explorer browser to access their applications, which is already included with Windows. Through aXes, a CBC customer/distributor can now come across the Internet and quickly access their CBC menus and screens through the browser interface. The small Internet screen packets (averaging 1K) generated by aXes were also very important to CBC. CBC screens could now be accessible by customers over slower dial-up connections.

"aXes provided a painless installation process that gave us an instant, easy and inexpensive solution which allows our customers to access our ERP system via the web and browser. The ability to customize our screens via stylesheets (with zero double maintenance impact) was also very easy" said Rick Masjuk.