

Case: TNT Post

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REPLICATION STRATEGY AT TNT POST

With their decentralized data-infrastructure, and a growing need for high volume data replication, TNT Post of the Netherlands took a strategic decision in initiating the development of HVR. “TNT Post is a cost-driven service provider in logistics”, says IT-Manager Frank Knot. “In order to be successful, we manage huge amounts of often complex data traffic within our organization. For example for tracking & tracing purposes, but also for operating up-to-date zip code databases. When we defined our key conditions for a replicator to fit the needs of our present and future data environment, we concluded that the replicator we needed did not yet exist. Available replicators lacked robustness and the ability to handle huge data volumes.”

HVR

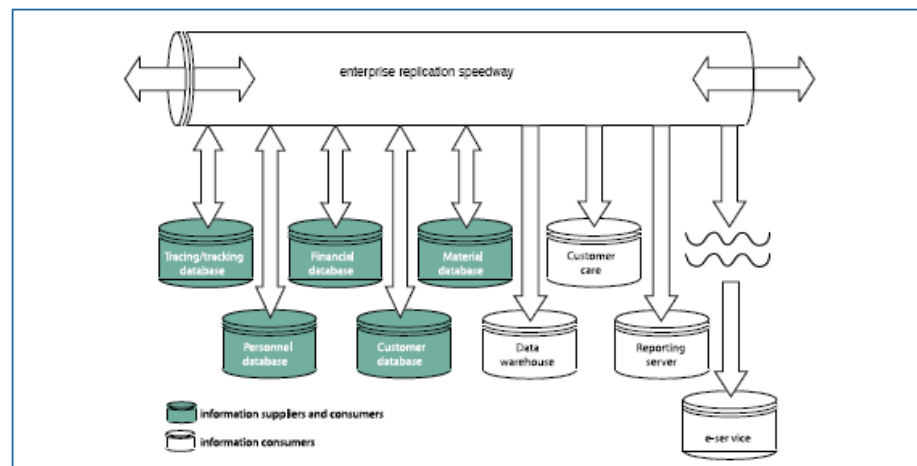
The use of databases in the business community is on the rise – along with the need to exchange data from different relational databases and to keep it as current as possible. This naturally makes processing speed and reliability two of the key system requirements, which also applies to multi-vendor environments with databases from different software suppliers.

A replicator is a middleware application that enables databases to communicate with each other and keep their data up-to-date. HVR from the Amsterdam IT company HVR Software bv boasts a transaction speed 1,200 times faster than other replicators. Moreover, the system is extremely robust and reliable.

ENTERPRISE REPLICATION SPEEDWAY

Thanks to the replication volume and the reliability of the HVR, TNT Post was able to implement a data strategy in which several business processes were combined. Together with HVR Software bv they created an HVR-application that serves as an enterprise replication speedway.

In the development of this application, HVR Software bv worked closely together with software company IQUIP Informatica B.V. The enterprise replication speedway enables the implementation of a true data replication strategy, providing not only the technical tools but more especially the business solutions.



WHO WE ARE

The parent company of HVR Software bv is PSB bv. From its conception in 1985, PSB has been a specialist in database technology, aiming to match and better the engineering quality of the biggest names in the industry.

Initially PSB focused on the Ingres DBMS, quickly acquiring a reputation as a key center of in-depth DBMS knowledge for the Dutch market. In the 1990's PSB founded HVR Software bv which aimed at widening focus and offer more service solutions by including other database products, for example datawarehousing tools, Oracle, Microsoft's SQL Server and more.

Around this time HVR Software was assisting an important customer – Royal TNT Post - with its data distribution requirements, and became aware of the chronic gap in the database market for robust and efficient database replication. HVR was built to solve this problem. The HVR has been quickly adopted in logistics, telecommunications and public sectors, and is now sold worldwide.

HVR Software also delivers

- implementation
- support
- training services

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Combining various replication categories, the HVR creates one large data bus. The bus moves data up and down a replication speedway, using different replication techniques serving various purposes. It feeds for instance web servers with operational data and data that customers need to use the services of the enterprise. To be able to feed the servers and to share data in real-time and across heterogeneous platforms and databases, replication moves data and changes data as well as data structures.

HVR boosted efficiency at TNT Post enormously, says Frank Knot. "If we relate our IT-costs to the packages we deliver, we are now at about half the cost-level of our competitors."

CONTROL

As an enterprise replication speedway is one layer of middleware, observing and checking the running replication processes are being done from a single point of control. All jobs are administered, scheduled and controlled from one central location. This improves and simplifies the control of the speedway. The definition of the replication scheme is also located in one central database, improving control and maintenance.

FLEXIBILITY AND SECURITY

When the HVR was developed, TNT Post used an architecture based on the store & forward principle. They are now in the process of turning to a centralized web-architecture. The HVR is so flexible that it can follow that development. "HVR has proven its stability and robustness", Frank Knot says. "It enables us to provide efficient, customer oriented services and product innovation, like collection of payment on delivery of a package, rerouting if necessary and scheduled delivery. In the near future, status and location of packages might be monitored directly by our clients through the Internet. Our market develops continuously and HVR enables us to change accordingly."

This brings Knot to another important advantage of using the HVR: security. "Usually, external internet requests reach your intranet or database in http. By translating external requests in the proprietary protocol with compression algorithm of HVR, the risk of being hacked is minimized."

ELECTRONIC FUTURE

The strategic value of HVR as an enterprise replication speedway is measured in efficiency, flexibility and security. For authorized users, data are almost always available to every location at any time, even when the source of the data is not available due to system or network failure or maintenance work. Not only will the HVR reduce costs through better reliability in data replication, its speed in combination with its robustness allows organizations to build an electronic future upon it.

HVR Software

Realtime Data Integration for Mission Critical Environments