

CASE *IN PRINT*



Purdue University Takes Advantage of VPS PageCenter with Web Access

For some Purdue University employees, looking up information in reports produced by the school's mainframe computer means finding a microfiche, waiting for someone to finish using a reader, inserting the fiche in the reader, and scanning the report line by line.



Now, for the Bursar and Accounting staffs, it will mean launching Netscape Navigator on their PC and viewing the report online, with search and indexing capabilities that help them find specific data almost instantly.

Purdue has installed VPS PageCenter with Web Access from Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc. PageCenter imports documents from VTAM Printer Support (VPS) on the MVS host,

stores the documents on the host, and alerts users through a mailbox system that reports are available to be viewed. Line data and AFP documents can be viewed with PageCenter Client for Windows; line data is viewable via a 3270 interface and, with PageCenter Web Access, using a standard Web browser.

Instead of distributing copies of host reports, PageCenter distributes access to reports for online viewing. Purdue is currently providing this capability to the Accounting and Bursar's office staffs and their environments. The university plans to eventually roll PageCenter out for users of all mainframe applications.

That's an important change at Purdue. Before installing PageCenter, Dennis Feldman, computer operations manager, oversees a distribution system that sends microfiche and paper reports to multiple locations on all four campuses. In-house microfiche production alone cost the university \$63,000 annually in maintenance and supplies.

EXECUTIVE **SUMMARY**

Purdue University installed VPS PageCenter with Web Access for online viewing of MVS host reports via a standard Web browser. The university will be able to virtually eliminate the need to produce and distribute multiple microfiche and paper copies of reports. Purdue also maintains security over mainframe data and avoids the need for special viewing software.

"We are producing up to 30 copies of some reports," Feldman said. "Before the end of the year, this capability will be in production environment and made available to staff on all regional campuses. Now we can make one copy, have it sit on the mainframe, and all the people who need to see it can see it."



BROWSER ACCESS

Because Purdue has installed PageCenter Web Access, the people who need to see reports will be able to view them using the Web browser on their PCs. Web Access allows report viewing with a standard Web browser without requiring plug-ins, Active-X controls, or 3270 protocol support. Web Access installs and runs directly on the web server and provides the interface between PageCenter on the MVS system and the WWW protocols running on the web server.



As many as 3,100 Purdue employees could view the university's online reports using Netscape Navigator, the Web browser already on their PCs. Because of Web Access, Purdue will not be burdened with installing and supporting new software on thousands of PCs.

The staff hasn't suffered with a burdensome installation on the host, either. Although LRS provided phone support during installation, no

on-site assistance was required. Project Administrator Scott Stambaugh and Will Johnson agreed that the installation was a straightforward process.

SECURE ACCESS

Whenever the topic is access to mainframe data over the Web, security is a concern. With PageCenter, Purdue can make sure reports are viewable only by employees who should see the data. That's because PageCenter maintains security over host data while it distributes access to reports. VPS PageCenter provides flexibility to use its internal security module or to interface with popular MVS security applications such as RACF, CA-ACF2, and Purdue's choice for security CA-TOP SECRET.

PageCenter gives Purdue the ability to establish departmental access to mailboxes—for example, the Bursar's office has access to the Bursar mailbox but not the Admissions mailbox. The authority to grant individual users access to specific reports is the responsibility of each department's data steward.

"Typically, when you give someone administrative rights to security within a product, you give them security across the board," Feldman noted. "In PageCenter, the Bursar's data steward can have administrative rights over just the data that he has access to. We felt that was an extremely important benefit."

'REAL-TIME' ACCESS

An important benefit for Purdue employees is timelier access to host reports. Because PageCenter receives reports directly from VPS, users can view information as soon as it's processed. Reports are delivered in 'real-time' to the archive and are immediately available to users, a significant change from Purdue's previous method of distributing information.

"When we produce fiche, it takes from 24 hours to five days for people to get their reports," Feldman explained. "We have some huge, 100,000-page month-end reports that take four to five days. Now, if a report is processed at 2 a.m., it will be available for viewing at 2:05—if anyone wants to view it then."

Although most employees probably won't take the opportunity to review host data in the wee hours of the morning, they often make use of it soon after it's produced. Feldman estimated that the majority of Purdue's reports are used in the first 10 days of their existence. After that

initial time, he said, most reports are not reviewed again.

But if an employee needs to look at a report weeks after it's produced, PageCenter provides a flexible, multi-level archiving capability.

ARCHIVE ACCESS

PageCenter automatically stores reports in the archive level and moves them to longer-term vault storage based on retention periods established by the PageCenter administrator. The administrator can specify that weekly cash flow reports will remain in archive storage level for five days before moving into the vault, for example, or that three generations of invoices will always be readily accessible.

The archive level ensures fast access to documents while two vault levels reduce storage costs by writing to tape, optical or other removable media. Vaulted reports have to be restored from media to the archive before they're viewed, but that's an improvement for Purdue employees.

"Restoring a report from a tape cartridge is still faster for our users than finding the right fiche, taking it to a reader and finding the report information they need," Feldman said. "We really like the online and near-line archiving features of PageCenter."

Feldman said Purdue will continue to produce microfiche versions of a few reports which are required to be stored for a number of years. Those reports account for just six percent of Purdue's former microfiche production, however, and they are produced by an outside company.

"Our focus up front was to outsource our microfiche production," Feldman said. "With PageCenter, we will be doing that and we will come really close to our payback goal."

PURDUEFACTS

- 66,000 students on five campuses statewide
- Approximately 3,100 employees accessing host reports
- Coeducational university system founded in 1869

LRSPRODUCTS

By installing PageCenter Web Access, Purdue University is building on a solid foundation of Enterprise Print Management solutions already in use. LRS products working together at Purdue include:

VPS

VTAM Printer Support streamlines printing in the MVS environment by efficiently routing output from the JES2/JES3 spool to the most appropriate printer or output device. Printers can be quickly and easily added to the VPS system without the need for IPLs, special gen's, JES definitions, or "bouncing" the VPS system.

VMCF

VPS Monitor and Control Facility (VMCF) is a single point of control for network printing, giving you the ability to monitor all VPS-controlled output devices and fix any problems that occur.

VPS/TCPIP

A VPS extension product, VPS/TCPIP takes output from the JES spool and dynamically routes it to a remote IP device, whether that device is a printer or workstation queue, via the Line Printer Daemon (LPR/LPD protocol) process, or directly to an IP printer with a network interface adapter that supports the TCP/IP Direct Sockets Interface.

PageCenter

PageCenter provides dynamic viewing and printing of MVS host reports anywhere in your enterprise. PageCenter receives information directly from VPS, eliminating the need to schedule batch jobs to process and import reports into the archive. Using a variety of client interfaces, users view documents electronically and, if necessary, can print the specific pages they need.

PageCenter Web Access

VPS PageCenter Web Access allows you to access and view line mode reports in the VPS PageCenter archive using either Microsoft or Netscape Web browsers.

DRS

Dynamic Report System lets you dynamically route output created by your online applications to the JES spool. From the JES spool, VPS can direct print jobs to any printer in your enterprise-wide network, including TCP/IP printers, VTAM printers, and LAN printers.



Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc.

ENTERPRISE PRINT MANAGEMENT

LRSOFFICES

Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc.
2401 West Monroe Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704
USA
Phone: 217.793.3800
Fax: 217.787.0979
Internet: <http://www.lrs.com>

Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc.
Türkenstr. 11
80333 München
Deutschland
Phone: +49 (0)89/28 66 95-0
Fax: +49 (0)89/28 66 95 11

Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc.
Beethovenstr. 18
63263 Neu-Isenburg
Deutschland
Phone: +49 (0)6102/7958-0
Fax: +49 (0)6102/7958-50

Levi, Ray & Shoup, Sucursal en España
Consell de Cent, 106-108, 2^o-2^a
08015-Barcelona
España
Phone: 34-(9)3-426-51-43
Fax: 34-(9)3-423-90-06

Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc. U.K.
226 Berwick Avenue
Slough Trading Center
Slough SL1 4QT
United Kingdom
Phone: 44 1753 567267
Fax: 44 1753 567265