



CASE STUDY

General Cable Takes Control Over the Change Management Processes

Industry

Manufacturing

Challenge

The IT team needed a better way to manage source modifications and secure code without slowing down its development.

Results

- Automated and accelerated change management processes while providing structure
- Increased developer productivity

Products

- Rocket® Aldon Lifecycle Manager (IBM i Edition)
- Rocket® Aldon Harmonizer

Application

- Software Change Management

Company

General Cable is a leading manufacturer of wire and cable for the communications, energy, industrial, and electrical markets. The company serves its customers through a global network of manufacturing facilities in its core markets, with operations throughout North America and in Spain, Portugal, New Zealand, Mexico, and the United Kingdom. General Cable embodies a passion for innovation that spans more than 170 years of continuous change and progress. Its products and brands are known for high quality and outstanding performance.

Challenge

General Cable relied on a network of IBM i systems to run their core business applications. The IT department included a development team at its corporate office in Highland Heights, Kentucky, as well as five additional remote development teams around the United States supporting their IBM i change management processes.

While both of the IBM i systems in Kentucky were production machines, one was used exclusively for testing and development. To take advantage of the IBM i system's proven reliability, General Cable ran most of its business-critical applications on it, including an ERP application and the company's financial processes.

As General Cable expanded its customer base, the development team recognized the need to secure its IP and source code but without slowing down the application staff's productivity. According to George Almeida, a member of General Cable's IBM i technical support team, the development group wanted to meet several key objectives in its search for the right Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) solution. Flexibility was a critical factor. To be viable, the solution would also have to be easy to use, so that programmers could get started right away and continue to meet key customer deadlines.



Solution

After evaluating several vendors and approaches to ALM, General Cable ultimately chose Rocket® Aldon Lifecycle Manager (IBM i Edition) and Rocket® Aldon Harmonizer to continue to maximize its IBM i investment.

Results

As Almeida recalled, “Up to that point, there was very little structure when it came to checking in/out source members. We had to convince our programmers that they would not be constrained by a new process, but instead would gain productivity by using the Rocket tools.”

By embracing automation of its development and release processes, General Cable not only increased developer productivity, but also improved code quality. Aldon Lifecycle Manager on the IBM i platform (LMi) automated and accelerated the company's change and deployment workflows, offering speed with greater control over the entire change lifecycle.

The Rocket Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) products were designed to make it easy to assign tasks, notify team members of to-dos, gather approvals, and move changed code from development through testing and on to production. Using LMi, the General Cable team members simply selected the tasks that were ready to move, and the software ensures that all the right code is promoted, built, and deployed to all the right places.

There's no question that the Rocket ALM products played a key role in General Cable's continued IBM i development and expansion to support new locations and new classes of customers. Just as important, Rocket technical support services provided assistance throughout the entire installation process. These services went beyond product-specific support to helping the company design the right application development process for its IT department's specific needs.

Almeida summed it up, “[Rocket ALM products] made a big difference in our environment...the overall long-term impact has been a very positive one. And through it all, the technical support team has been nothing short of superb.”

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George Almeida
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