



# Simplifying Development and Satisfying Compliance Needs



Big 5 Sporting Goods is one of America's top retailers of name-brand sporting goods and accessories. Its automated, state-of-the-art distribution center in Riverside, California, serves 434 stores throughout the western United States. Founded in 1955, the company offers a full line of merchandise, including athletic shoes and apparel, as well as outdoor and athletic equipment for team sports, fitness, camping, tennis, golf, and snowboarding.

## The Challenge

The company experienced rapid growth, creating the need to manage new, complex, regulatory challenges.

In recent years, Big 5 experienced rapid growth on both the financial and operations side. After the company completed an initial public offering, it faced an array of new regulatory requirements, including Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) compliance. In addition, Big 5 opened 85 new stores in just five years. While both developments were good for the company's business, they also added new layers of complexity to the organization.

The IPO forced Big 5 to take a step back and look more closely at its operations from both a business and IT process perspective. The company was not accustomed to auditing processes involving both its IT and business units. It needed to ensure that its IT systems were properly equipped to not only support regulatory compliance but also deliver operational efficiency, providing a foundation for future growth.

The combination of rapid growth and new store openings resulted in the need for constant changes to the company's core business applications. Before working with Rocket Software, Big 5 relied on an informal, manual documentation process to track and control its business application development. This proved time-consuming and prone to errors and left its developers with no effective way to control and document the software modifications they made. Even simple application changes became complex.

## The Solution

Big 5 turned to a trusted solution in Rocket® DevOps to help manage rapidly shifting compliance requirements.

For the business to address a new set of challenges, it required automated, repeatable, and traceable processes to streamline application development and to track the software development lifecycle to address regulatory compliance requirements. Big 5's search for a process-driven change management solution from a reliable and trusted vendor led them to Rocket Software and Rocket DevOps.

// The solution not only solves our SOX requirements, it improves and automates IT processes. It has gone well beyond our expectations. When the SOX auditors heard we had Rocket DevOps in place, they checked off the first 10 boxes, knowing we were already in accordance."

**Glen Thompson,**  
Senior Manager

## Results

Once the Big 5 team implemented Rocket® DevOps, they could view a complete audit trail to satisfy the new regulatory requirements. With a single keystroke, the company could deliver a comprehensive history of every action performed on any given object. Achieving compliance with SOX and other relevant laws and regulations became much less challenging.

Rocket DevOps also made it significantly easier for Big 5 to develop, deploy, and manage its most important corporate applications. The company streamlined and gained newfound control of its billing and payment system, order processing, inventory management, databases, and pricing.

Using Rocket DevOps, programmers could define the development lifecycle at implementation. The software automated the movement of objects between environments based on user ID and object definitions, and simplified development by freeing the team from having to specify target environments. The solution also increased productivity by helping ensure that management tasks were offloaded to management personnel, so programmers could focus on the development of quality software.

The development team gained tight version control of software throughout the application lifecycle, using Rocket DevOps to ensure that consistent object authority was enforced from start to finish.

Object distribution technology made it simple to track the location of every object and maintain control at every point. Rocket DevOps automated the movement of objects between environments based on user ID and object definitions. Rather than searching for particular objects or ensuring that the correct version of an object was selected, employees could devote time and effort to key development tasks.

Big 5 benefited from using Rocket DevOps at multiple points across the business and IT departments. Ease of use, automated documentation, and object distribution became essential elements of the company's development process, as well as its day-to-day procedures.

Business lines gained new levels of visibility into key corporate assets, with improved procedures, traceability, and control throughout the application lifecycle. IT management benefited from complete visibility into development processes, with developers having a clear view of next steps and tasks already completed by other team members. Overall, Big 5 increased productivity and streamlined processes, making it easier to meet deadlines, improve software quality, and deliver it on time for an enhanced customer experience.

## Impact of Rocket Software

### Simplified Compliance

With Rocket DevOps, Big 5 was able to establish a complete audit trail that satisfied evolving regulatory demands.

### Increased Productivity

Rocket Software helped simplify the development process, offloading management tasks and enabling developers to focus on their roles.

### Improved Customer Experience

Rocket DevOps helped Big 5 improve software quality and streamline processes, providing a boost to customer experience.

Learn more and see how else Rocket Software can help fuel your modernization journey.

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