



# Say Goodbye RM/COBOL... HELLO System Z!!

## System Z and TranZform The Perfect Solution

### The Client

Butler & Associates is a transportation software systems provider for third party truck brokers, air freight forwarders, and intermodal marketing companies. Their flagship system (MBS), originally written in RM/COBOL, is installed in over 150 locations in the US and Canada. In 2000, MBS managed over \$800 million dollars of freight logistics. The system provides load dispatch, load prenoting, electronic railroad billing, load tracking, customer service reporting, customer invoicing and scores of other functions that are unique to the transportation industry.

### The Need

Butler needed a solution that would take their RM/COBOL programs to the next level including the addition of a Graphical User Interface and the ability to Web enable their applications. "While many of our existing customers are content to run the text based version of our product, potential new clients almost always expect a GUI/Windows product, as well as the ability to access the Internet," states Sam Butler, President of Butler & Associates. Butler needed to add this enhanced functionality to his application solution to attract new clients and stay competitive.

### The Challenge

"We've been a Liant RM/COBOL customer for over 18 years but we decided to see what other products were available," said Butler. Butler and his staff researched a variety of solutions and found several options. Unfortunately, most of them required that they either maintain multiple sets of source code, or worse yet, develop new applications from scratch. None of these options appealed to Butler so the search continued.

### The Solution

"Our research paid off and we found the ideal solutions with System Z," added Butler. Being able to maintain only one set of source code for multiple environments was just one of the key benefits of System Z. "It also allowed us to migrate our existing applications into both a high performance RAD and a GUI-based product without rewriting our code. By using TranZform, Zortec's migration technology, we made the move quickly and efficiently, without any of the headaches often associated with this type of project. We were also sold on the fact that Zortec runtimes are very cost effective and that our converted COBOL applications could be deployed on multiple platforms including the Internet."

### The Result

As a new member of the Zortec family, Butler & Associates has already reaped some of the many benefits of the new environment. Aside from adding a new GUI front-end and Web capabilities, Butler is also enjoying the power and flexibility of the System Z Data Dictionary, which provides greater control over their database and allows for reusable code. "Combine these with other Z benefits and you have a very powerful solution. We can already tell that Z will allow us to significantly reduce our development time and, as a result, increase our productivity and efficiency."



# Success Profile



Zortec International is dedicated to helping businesses develop, integrate, manage and deliver their applications, content and data anywhere within the enterprise. Since 1984, Zortec has specialized in providing rapid application development (RAD) technology that enables organizations of any size to quickly build and deploy enterprise applications. Satisfied users in tens of thousands of installations across the globe have learned that Zortec products provide the powerful functionality, interoperability and flexibility needed to help businesses succeed.



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