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## THE LANSA REVIEW

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**LANSA**  
ADVANCED SOFTWARE MADE SIMPLE

# In this issue: Integration automation and 5250 application modernization



A WORD FROM PETE DRANEY  
Director and CEO

## Integration Automation

Many companies have business processes that are chained together by a mishmash of computer interfaces and human effort - negatively affecting operating costs, employee productivity and business relationships.

The **Showcase** demonstrates how automating data chains with LANSA Composer lowers data processing costs and improves accuracy by reducing the amount of paper, email, fax and human effort required for repetitive tasks.

All the showcased projects have two factors in common. First is the simplicity of design and development, usually requiring no programming skills. Second is the streamlining of the business processes around these data exchanges, with the automation of the actions to take on success or failure of each step in the process.

The **Architects Corner** focuses on business process integration and provides considerations and best practice guidelines for designing and delivering integration solutions.

## 5250 Application Modernization

The article "**How to justify 5250 application modernization to your CFO**" provides some proven tips and techniques for success in presenting an application modernization project for budget approval. Many IBM i users are still running at least one of their core business applications in 5250 mode. Of the many reasons we hear in support of this, the two most common are a) the cost of modernisation versus ROI and b) the lack of a compelling reason to modernize.

**STRATTEC Security Corporation**, an automotive lock maker in the USA, provides a very good example of how to pick modernization projects for maximum ROI. They use a simple yet powerful rule: start with what gives the biggest bang for your buck. In other words, start with the most inefficient and time consuming procedure and turn it around. In their first modernization project, they made processing shipments six times faster. Just two guys did this. I bet their CFO is all ears the next time they knock on his door.

**Piraeus MultiFin**, a finance company in Greece, used the Visual LANSA Framework to redevelop its core line-of-business system, transforming it from a 5250 interface to a modern Web application. MultiFin improved customer service and lowered their operating cost. This was all achieved with modest resources and MultiFin's own small team of two LANSA developers, who also looked after the existing system while redeveloping.

**TCM**, an IT infrastructure and services provider in South Africa, used RAMP and Visual LANSA to modernize their systems, following a pragmatic low risk approach through a phased implementation. The improved efficiency of the modernized solution has contributed to allowing TCM to double in size whilst only increasing administrative support staff by twenty percent. The modernization project was carried out by two developers from TCM's own IT team, both new to visual development.

Notice a pattern here? All these companies carried out successful modernization projects with a staff of just two, who looked after the maintenance of the legacy system as well.

**Advance Computing**, a provider of financial software in Australia, presents a special modernization example. They gradually, but totally, replaced all RPG code with LANSA and can now offer their solution across different deployment platforms. This allowed them to expand their market share from a handful of large IBM midrange customers to also include numerous Windows implementations. All platform implementations are supported from a single set of LANSA source code.

## Visual LANSA for .Net Developers

Finally, I draw your attention to the latest release of LANSA Open .NET. Version 3. It is now very easy for any .NET developer to access LANSA's business rules via the LANSA Repository and to access DB2 databases from their Visual Studio development environment. You can think of it as simplified Visual LANSA for .NET.