

# MIS Department

The MIS department is at the core of the business re-engineering taking place at Empire.

With the upgrading of its systems to high-powered Sun and HP server architecture, the traditional role of MIS has shifted from

providing information to providing systems. Engineers can now acquire and use information on

demand, standardize report-writing templates and functions, place equipment and personnel on-site at the right time, and tie directly into accounting and sales efforts.

The challenge, faced by Empire's MIS department, was to design a system flexible enough for gathering, storing, and tracking of real-time data, while still supporting legacy applications on existing hardware. The new system had to provide a

graphical, user-friendly development environment that could interoperate with productivity applications on the client desktop-applications used in every Empire department and office.

MIS personnel use NeXT's AppKit, Enterprise Object Framework, and a library of third-party objects to develop custom applications

that model its business in ways not possible with off-the-shelf, shrinkwrapped software. But by going custom, the company hasn't lost interoperability: NeXT's InterfaceBuilder provides Empire applications with the same, sophisticated GUI found in NEXTSTEP third-party productivity software. Object-oriented development provides Empire with the benefits of code reusability, maintenance, and stability, as well as rich object libraries.



By using NEXTSTEP applications like Conextions' 3270 terminal-emulation software, and Insignia Solutions' SoftPC, Empire can leverage its investment in mainframe and PC legacy applications until the full client/server system is deployed.



The MIS department uses GS Corporation's Collaggi Palette and WatchMe screen movies to bring the rest of the company up to speed on its custom applications.



Because NEXTSTEP runs on everything from Intel-based PCs to Sun and HP servers, Empire's MIS department has been able to deploy custom and shrinkwrapped solutions throughout the entire organization, resulting in a smoothly running client/server system instead of islands of productivity.

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This is Due ASAP!!!

