

GEFCO Builds an Enterprise-Grade Logistics Management System With Caspio



COMPANY PROFILE

GEFCO is a leading global logistics company that provides integrated logistics solutions through its extensive expertise in overland, air, sea and rail supply chain flows. GEFCO offers multi-modal logistics services in industrial, automotive, aeronautic, electronic, FMCG, retail and business-to-business markets over a network of more than 300 destinations worldwide.

gefco.net

CHALLENGE

GEFCO won a large project from an important account that required the precise tracking of automotive parts as they are distributed to suppliers throughout the UK and Europe.

SOLUTION

GEFCO used Caspio to quickly develop and deploy a robust and scalable logistics management system.

BENEFIT

Caspio's low-code application platform allowed GEFCO to streamline its logistics processes and save significantly on development and maintenance expenses.



“The development speed of Caspio is unbelievable. Caspio fills a crucial void in our organization.”

Simon Verdon
IT Solutions Manager, GEFCO UK

UNIQUE BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

GEFCO is a global logistics services provider that specializes in delivering supply chain solutions for a wide range of manufacturers. Having a particularly strong connection with the automotive industry, the company acquired a new project to supply and manage packaging for a major European auto manufacturer. The project required a real-time tracking system with varying permissions and capabilities for different types of users across Europe. However, GEFCO's previous enterprise applications were not equipped to deliver these kinds of services.

SEARCHING FOR THE RIGHT PLATFORM

Simon Verdon, GEFCO UK's IT Solutions Manager, was tasked to find a solution. “The first approach is to always consider currently available corporate resources,” he shares. However, existing solutions within the company proved inadequate, forcing him to look at various external off-the-shelf solutions. When he found that none of them met the precise requirements of the project, he realized that what GEFCO needed was to develop its own custom application.

Verdon explored different rapid application development tools and was disappointed that there always seemed to be something lacking with each of them – whether it was limited scalability, complicated implementation and maintenance procedures, inadequate support or unreasonable visible and hidden costs.

PROVIDING STABILITY, SCALABILITY AND SECURITY

Verdon's continued search eventually led him to Caspio, and he found that the all-in-one platform provided the stability, scalability and security he needed to satisfy both GEFCO's corporate IT and their client's key stakeholders. What's more, Caspio's visual application builder and point-and-click wizards enabled him to greatly accelerate his application's time-to-market.

Over the next few weeks after discovering Caspio, Verdon quickly and easily created GEFCO's new tracking system. The web application automates several important processes, including the collection of orders from the head office in Paris, the compilation of orders from the UK planning team and the assignment of authorized haulers to multiple collection and delivery requests.

SECURE USER MANAGEMENT

Since the client was a high-profile multinational organization, a critical requirement for the project was the ability to restrict application access based on user identity. Caspio's flexible user management and authentication capabilities enabled GEFCO to implement the necessary security measures it required.

“We love Caspio's extensive user management and security features,” says Verdon. “Each of the collection sites around the UK can log on to the application and view only the data relating to their site, while the UK Planning and Corporate teams in Paris can view data for all sites in real-time.”

Verdon also praised Caspio's technical support team, who he says became "...just like my own team members." Since Verdon developed and implemented the tracking application as a side project while maintaining his full regular responsibilities, using Caspio also allowed GEFCO to save in application development and maintenance costs.

GEFCO clients have also seen the benefits that Caspio brings to their businesses. The automobile manufacturer for whom the initial application was built was able to automate its previously manual processes and save over £100,000 annually from this project alone. The tracking system has become so valuable to its users that when asked what would happen if it was ever switched off, they replied: "Don't even joke about taking our application away from us. We would be lost without it."

PAVING THE WAY FOR FUTURE GROWTH

The success of the logistics management system has encouraged other teams within GEFCO to use Caspio to create their own applications. "Caspio fills a crucial void in our organization," says Verdon. "Without Caspio, we would not have the fantastic relationships we have with the businesses that we have acquired."



Visual Application Builder

Caspio's visual point-and-click user interface allows GEFCO to quickly and easily create custom business applications without writing a single line of code.



Flexible User Management

Caspio's flexible user management capabilities provide secure access for GEFCO employees across several locations.



Rapid Deployment

GEFCO is now deploying custom database applications on their website quickly and at a fraction of the cost.



GEFCO Logistics Management System, Powered by Caspio



Application Developer Spotlight: Simon Verdon

Simon Verdon has been GEFCO's Operational IT Solutions Manager for nine years. He provides GEFCO with solutions that ensure efficient service delivery. Using Caspio, Verdon successfully developed a reliable logistics management system which helped the company remain at the forefront of the global logistics industry.



COMPANY PROFILE

Caspio is the leading cloud platform for building custom business applications without coding. Embraced by business professionals for ease of use and trusted by IT professionals for security, compliance and scalability, Caspio's all-in-one platform provides everything needed to capture data, share information and automate business processes. The combination of a powerful online database, rapid application development tools and scalable cloud infrastructure reduces software development time by up to a factor of 10. Caspio powers more than one million applications for businesses of all sizes in over 100 countries, ranging from global corporations and government agencies to universities, nonprofits and small businesses.

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