

GEFCO Uses Caspio Low-Code Platform to Build an Enterprise-Grade Logistics Management System



GLOBAL LOGISTICS
FOR MANUFACTURERS

Agency Size

12,000 Employees

Industry

Logistics and Transportation

Challenge

GEFCO acquired a new business opportunity that required planning, managing, and tracking of automotive parts distributed to suppliers throughout the UK and across Europe. Existing corporate applications were inadequate, making GEFCO consider building a custom solution.

Solution

After evaluating several options, GEFCO selected Caspio Platform because of its capabilities, security, and support. Using Caspio's low-code platform, GEFCO built and successfully rolled out a logistics management system in a short time and went on to build other applications with Caspio.

GEFCO Group

The performance GEFCO delivers to its customers is based on the expertise acquired over the last 65 years, particularly in the automotive industry, one of the most complex and demanding sectors. Present in 150 countries, GEFCO is one of the top 10 European Groups. It achieved a turnover of €4.2 billion in 2015 and employs 12,000 employees. With over 400 business locations worldwide, GEFCO is developing its activities in Southeast Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, in the Balkans, East Asia and South America.

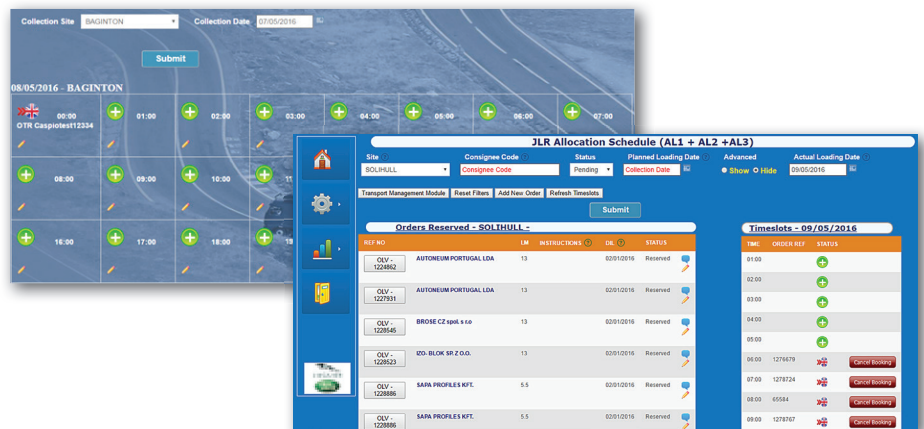
Website: www.gefco.co.uk
Twitter account: @GEFCO_Group
LinkedIn: GEFCO UK Ltd

After being awarded a major project with the potential to foster additional business expansion opportunities, GEFCO realized that their client's unique business requirements needed more than what their current enterprise applications could offer. Caspio's low-code application platform helped GEFCO become more agile in providing rapid IT solutions, allowing them to acquire more business without requiring additional people while offering significant savings on development and maintenance expenses.

Unique Business Requirements

GEFCO is a global logistics services provider specializing in logistics solutions for manufacturers. Having a strong connection with the automotive industry, the company acquired a new project to supply and manage reusable packaging for their client, a major European automobile manufacturer. The project required a real-time tracking system with varying permissions and capabilities for different types of users across Europe.

Simon Verdon, GEFCO UK's IT Solutions Manager, was tasked with finding a solution. "The first approach is to always consider currently available corporate resources," he explains. Since no existing solution was adequate, he looked outside at off-the-shelf solutions but found none that met his needs to the same level as a custom developed application.



Real-time monitoring and scheduling using Logistics Management System Powered by Caspio

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Rapid Application Development

Simon explored many Rapid Application Development (an approach to software development put less emphasis on planning and more emphasis on process) tools and platforms, but consistently found something that did not impress him. Some of the issues experienced ranged from limited capabilities, scale, complexity of implementation, and maintenance, to inadequate support and unreasonable visible or hidden costs.

He ultimately came across Caspio and, after his usual due diligence decided to build his solution on Caspio's platform. He chose Caspio because it provided the stability, scalability, and security he needed to satisfy both GEFCO's corporate IT and their client's key stakeholders. Over the next few weeks, Simon used Caspio's rich features and extensive resources to build his solution. He describes his relationship with Caspio as a "partnership", particularly with Caspio's technical support team who, according to Simon, became "just like my own team members."

Simon implemented this solution as a side project while maintaining his full regular responsibilities, thus saving GEFCO a large sum in application development and maintenance costs.

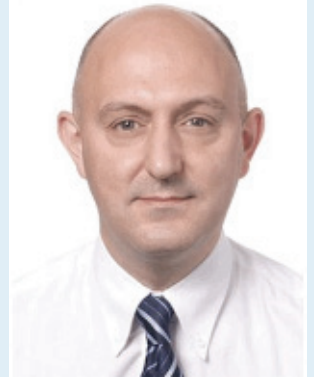
Large-scale Data Processing

The new system performs several processes automatically and repeatedly. Some of these processes are the collection of orders by the head office in Paris, instigation of the orders by the UK planning team, and matching of haulers from the approved list of suppliers to the collection and delivery requests. GEFCO was able to automate these processes using various Caspio capabilities, including Caspio DataHub, which efficiently exchanges data between the internal corporate system and Caspio application based on a recurring schedule.

A critical requirement for the project was to restrict record-level access based on user identity. Using Caspio's roles and

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

Simon Verdon, IT Solutions Manager, GEFCO UK



authentication capabilities and Record Level Security, GEFCO was able to implement the necessary security measures it required. "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," Simon explains. "We love Caspio's extensive user management and security features."

Impacting the Bottom Line

With the success of the logistics management system, other teams within GEFCO started creating applications using Caspio. "Caspio fills a void in our organization. Without Caspio, we would not have the relationships with some of the businesses that we have acquired," Simon Verdon says.

GEFCO clients have also demonstrated their high satisfaction with Caspio-powered applications. The automobile manufacturer, for whom the initial application was built, was able to automate its manual processes and save over £100K annually from this project alone. The development became so valuable to its users that when they were asked what they would do if the application was switched off, they replied, "Don't even joke about taking our application away from us. We would be lost without it."

About Caspio, Inc.

Caspio (www.caspio.com) is the world's leading low-code application platform. Business professionals are empowered to create forms, searchable databases, interactive reports, and sophisticated multi-user business applications. The all-in-one platform includes a built-in online database, rapid application development tools, and scalable cloud infrastructure. Coupled with world-class support, Caspio customers can free themselves from complex programming tasks and long project backlogs using a solution proven to reduce costs and time-to-market by a factor of 10. The platform powers applications for thousands of customers, ranging from global corporations and government agencies to universities, non-profits, and small businesses around the world.

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