

Starbucks

Brewing a better solution with Esker DeliveryWare Platform

Case Study



Best known for supplying fine coffees, the Starbucks Coffee Company prides itself on being an early adopter of emerging technologies in order to drive its business forward. Starbucks Coffee Company Australia, a joint venture between Australian businessmen Markus Hofer and Starbucks International, served its first coffee to Australia in July 2000 and has been opening stores in quick succession ever since. Rapid growth, coupled with the need for a new financial system, prompted the company's search for ways of automating the delivery of information, in particular to increase the efficiency of delivering financial documents. Esker DeliveryWare offered a unique solution to Starbucks' immediate and future needs.

"With Esker DeliveryWare Platform our payback period is well within the estimated six months, which is great news for us."

"Esker DeliveryWare Platform allows our Accounts Payable team to get their job done quicker and customers receive their invoices with record speed."

"Esker DeliveryWare Platform does not take up any of my time; it runs automatically, leaving me free to focus on the next project."

"Esker stood out for the exceptional level of support they offered right from the first phone call. Other vendors just faxed me details then sat back and waited!"

— Aram Dayeian, IT Manager, Starbucks Coffee Company (Australia) Pty Ltd

CHALLENGE

Starbucks' IT manager, Aram Dayeian recalls, "Within 16 months we went from three partners to more than 500 employees, and one Sydney store to 26 stores throughout New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, and Australian Capital Territory. Such rapid growth necessitated vital improvements in our IT systems."

Starbucks was deploying Oracle 11i Financials when Esker DeliveryWare Platform was installed. Aram explains, "Our stated criteria for the task were:

- Compatibility with our ERP system
- Superior customer service from the vendor
- Good technical support
- Meet budgetary requirements."

Starbucks subsequently changed their ERP system to Great Plains. Esker DeliveryWare Platform is platform-independent and continues to work seamlessly with Great Plains.

SOLUTION



Aram continues, "We received a call from Esker in Sydney while we were considering our options. When the Esker team demonstrated the solution, we instantly recognized that here was a document delivery solution full of opportunities for the future.

The possibilities beyond automated faxing with Esker DeliveryWare Platform are significant, as it retrieves text from any application and intelligently converts it into fax, email, SMS, or XML.

Documents reach their destination instantly and Esker DeliveryWare gives automatic confirmation of the outcome. I knew this could transform communications within our stores and to suppliers. Esker's solution clearly offered the best long-term solution and it worked within our budget!

Any new and innovative technology carries some risk, but we read the local case studies and liked the way Esker operated. We are very open to new technology; for example, our stores in the US were among the first to offer customers wireless Internet access via their laptops as they drink their lattes.

Esker's technical specialist installed Esker DeliveryWare Platform in a day. Our accounting department sends 5,200 remittance advices, purchase orders, and financial documents per week to a network of 100 suppliers throughout Australia, automatically through Oracle before and now through Great Plains. Esker's solution seamlessly integrated with our systems."

[more](#)

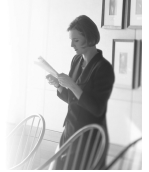


“Esker DeliveryWare Platform saves us half a day every week, boosting productivity, not to mention the morale of our staff who used to be tied to the fax machine all afternoon!”

– Aram Dayeian, IT Manager, Starbucks Coffee Company (Australia) Pty Ltd

BENEFITS/FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

“We are gradually implementing Esker DeliveryWare Platform across the business to automate the entire relationship with stores, replacing post and manual fax, and closing the gap between stores and support center,” says Aram.



Areas include:

- Purchasing: Purchase orders faxed and emailed
- Reporting: A vast range of reports emailed, such as P&L statements, labor reports, sales statistics, and stock and inventory reports
- Bulletins: Menu, price changes, and product news automatically bulk delivered instead of individually emailed

Measurement benefits:

- A long-term solution beyond mere faxing
- Flexibility
- Faster communication with suppliers
- Proven technology
- Payback period under six months
- Long-term savings on paper, ink, and postage
- Maintenance plan guarantees future versions
- Reduces paper and print in line with Starbucks’ environmental objectives.

Aram explains, “Initially, we had a short list of five vendors but their promised support was disappointing. On the other hand, nothing was too much trouble for Esker. Part of the Starbucks mission statement is ‘to develop enthusiastically satisfied customers all of the time’ and in Esker we have found a team who share the same attitude.”

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