



## BELGIAN RAILWAYS MOVES FULL SPEED AHEAD WITH NEW PLATFORM – THANKS TO EVENT REPLICATOR

### Challenge

Directives from the European Community have opened up the cargo market to competition. That means Belgian National Railway Company, a public government agency, can expand to serve other countries through Europe. To compete effectively, Belgian Railways must find new ways to lower costs and support business growth.

### Solution

Belgium Railways lowers costs by moving its data warehousing activities from the mainframe to the UNIX platform. Event Replicator for Adabas makes this smooth transfer possible by replicating data from Adabas on the mainframe to the data warehouse in real-time.

### Benefits

- Improved decision-making, thanks to real-time synchronization between databases
- Reduced mainframe licensing costs
- Projected savings of 20 - 30% in CPU and mainframe resources
- Return on investment expected in four years
- Fast implementation – Belgian Railways began realizing benefits in just 40 days
- Stability of Adabas and Natural assures business continuity



Belgian Railways transports travelers and cargo throughout Belgium and across Europe. The company carries more than 160 million passengers. It's also responsible for the construction, maintenance and modernization of the Belgian railway network, which spans nearly 3,500 km of operational rail tracks. Headquartered in Brussels, the company has 36,000 employees and has been a Software AG customer since 1975.

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**“Users always have the latest data instead of having to wait a day or more to have that information.”**

Thierry Casier | Infrastructure Manager | Belgian Railways

### Keeping IT on track with new business goals

Business at Belgian Railways has changed directions. The agency has expanded to transport travelers and cargo across Europe due to directives from the European Community. Expanding markets means Belgium Railways must streamline how it operates to compete effectively.

To lower costs, the enterprise decided to move its data warehouse from the mainframe to the UNIX platform. Both the existing and the new application will run on Adabas. Event Replicator for Adabas facilitates a smooth transfer by providing real-time data replication to the target system.

### Event Replicator is the ticket

Event Replicator for Adabas proactively pushes fresh data in real-time to the data warehouse. By pre-defining the data required with subscriptions, the product transforms the data and delivers it instantly. Without Event Replicator, managers would have had to use data that was 24-hours-old or even older. Now, they have cost-effective access to up-to-date, accurate information whenever they need it.

Additionally, in the past, a human resource had to write SAS programs to copy data from Adabas to the data warehouse. Now Belgian Railways benefits from true real-time replication with no filtering or additional data manipulation required. When a change occurs in the production Adabas database, Event Replicator for Adabas simultaneously updates target applications with that change.

Using Event Replicator, Belgian Railways:

- Lowers mainframe costs by consuming approximately 20-30% less mainframe CPU resources
- Reduces mainframe licensing costs, resulting in savings of 7% per year
- Projects a return on investment in four years
- Eliminates the need to write SAS programs to copy data, saving half a man-year annually

“Implementation of the infrastructure was smooth and completed quickly in 40 days,” said Thierry Casier, Infrastructure Manager at Belgian Railways. “The replication of the files has started and this will probably take one man-year.”

### Full speed ahead with Adabas and Natural

Handling more data and more users is “perfectly manageable” with Adabas and Natural, Casier said. Belgian Railways has relied on Adabas and Natural since 1975 and has easily adapted these “very predictable” systems to new business needs.

Adabas and Natural are easy to maintain and don’t require a lot of people to support them, he said, adding that Natural programs are “anti-risk.”

“In the case of Natural, it is a very big advantage to have a very productive language which enables developers to quickly develop new applications or new functionality for the end user. This is critical as new requirements will arise through our expansion into new markets.”

The railway also leverages webMethods EntireX to re-use mainframe functionality in new systems, thereby extending its IT investments.

### KEY COMPONENTS

#### Adabas and Natural

Used to develop 100% of Belgian Railways logistics applications.

#### Event Replicator for Adabas

Enables real-time data replication between Adabas systems on the mainframe and a data warehouse on the new UNIX platform.

#### webMethods EntireX

Links existing strategic applications to new systems, assuring a continued return on investment.

### ABOUT SOFTWARE AG

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Our industry-leading product portfolio includes best-in-class solutions for managing data, enabling service-oriented architecture, and improving business processes. By combining proven technology with industry expertise and best practices, our customers improve and differentiate their businesses – faster.

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