

SUCCESS STORY



Industry:

- IT Server Management

Challenge:

- Acquisitions and Consolidation
- Staff and Resource Constraints

Solution:

- GLSU from Z Option

Results:

- Handles Multiple Currencies
- Interfaced with non-SAP Systems
- Improved Payroll
- Simplified Recurring Entries
- Accurate Bank and VAT Transactions

Benefits:

- Simplified Company Consolidation
- Streamlined Processes



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Unique Uses for GLSU at Avocent Europe

Customer Profile

Some of the world's leading brands depend on Avocent technology to help them manage mission-critical physical IT resources, in the data center, remote branch location, and at end point devices. Avocent is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Emerson. With more than 600 employees in Europe and 1,800 worldwide, Avocent provides an industry-leading portfolio of data center infrastructure management solutions to enterprise-level IT organizations. Avocent Corporation's international hub in Ireland is part of the global company, headquartered in Huntsville, Alabama.

Challenges

With acquisitions an ongoing fact of life, Avocent Europe knew the best way to manage company consolidation was to have all the data residing in SAP. They wanted a fast, reliable mechanism to consolidate all the data from the old company's system into the new company, on SAP.

Prior to being acquired by Emerson, acquisitions were a frequent occurrence for Avocent. Since they used the SAP consolidation module, they needed all the entities' financial data to reside in SAP, at least at a GL level. The Avocent existing in-house templates were inadequate for such entries. "We found it a time-consuming and non-value-added activity to load entries into SAP manually," says Trisha Cahill, Management Accountant, Avocent International Ltd.

Solutions

In 2006, Avocent in the U.S. purchased GLSU and made it available for testing worldwide. Avocent identified the use of GLSU templates as a very fast and reliable mechanism to get data into SAP, from companies that used a system other than SAP.

"When I saw the functionality of GLSU, I thought it was tremendous," Cahill reports. Within a few weeks of testing, the templates were complete and ready for rollout. User training took less than an hour.

Unlike its U.S. counterpart, the European branch of Avocent had many posting users and a significant number of legal entities, and enterprising users quickly discovered many unique applications for the tool.

"Users have found GLSU phenomenal, in terms of the simplicity of the product and the time savings achieved," Cahill adds. "To say people are delighted with the product is an understatement."

"Once users started using GLSU in daily life, they figured out what was really possible with the product and it was much more than we initially thought."

- Trisha Cahill, Management Accountant, Avocent International Inc.

**Avocent™**

Z Option offers software solutions (GLSU, BudgetLoader and LIVExpress) that enable organizations to streamline SAP financial data entry and reporting, with Microsoft Excel. By leveraging existing Excel expertise, users can calculate financial transactions and post them directly to SAP. Z Option, an SAP partner, was established in 1999 and has hundreds of customer companies, with thousands of users, worldwide.

Results

Handles Multiple Currencies: Cahill calls the multi-currency template “extremely beneficial” and “most useful,” for templates that replicate F-05 in SAP.

Interfaced with Several Travel Systems: Avocent uses GLSU to input data from three travel systems into SAP:

- GLSU is used to upload data from CONCUR into SAP, using a CSV extract file, where CONCUR is not automatically interfaced with SAP.
- A GLSU template was built to upload Lotus Notes files into SAP.
- Employees fill out an Expense Claim Excel template which is copied and pasted into a GLSU workbook for upload to SAP.

Improved Payroll: Multiple payroll files from multiple sources are received as export files that are copied into a GLSU template and easily uploaded into SAP.

Simplified Recurring Entries: There are many standard monthly transactions that utilize GLSU. According to Cahill, “It just makes all the postings easier.”

- Monthly direct debits/standing orders with vendors/banks: It can be as simple as linking a bank download file to a GLSU template, to get banking data easily into SAP, notes Cahill.
- Cross company transactions: As an example, transfer pricing, for all legal entities, is handled easily with GLSU.

Postings Included CO-PA Details: Avocent has many monthly journals requiring CO-PA segment analysis. Cahill states, “These can be very long journals with a multitude of detail, and it would be very difficult and time-consuming to do this manually, so GLSU has been very helpful to speed the process of getting the right level of information into SAP to meet the business requirements.”

Accurate Bank Transaction Entries: Bank transaction values for each day are uploaded quickly into a monthly GLSU template, which ensures proper accounting.

Entries Requiring Value Added Tax (VAT) Postings: Templates can be designed to include tax/VAT. “This can eliminate the need for VAT reconciliations,” Cahill observes.

Business Benefits

Streamlined processes save time. “We’re very stretched for time and resources,” Cahill notes. “Prior to GLSU, getting data into SAP took a disproportionate amount of time.” The GLSU interface between non-SAP systems and SAP has standardized and simplified consolidation. Previously done manually, now entries are easily uploaded with much more detail and accuracy.

“Without a doubt, GLSU has reduced labor costs and improved morale. Our time is valuable and people are working hard enough as it is. GLSU makes the whole process quicker and much less daunting than it used to be.”

-- Trisha Cahill, Management Accountant, Avocent International Limited

Future plans include routing GLSU through the SAP workflow system and ensuring source documentation is added. This will reduce the paper trail and offer accurate time-stamped data that is SOX compliant. According to Cahill, “We have multiple geographical regions and a significant number of legal entities. With these features added, it will allow backup data to be retained with the posting, resulting in a more timely review of accounts.”



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