

Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited (KAPL)

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—Chief - IT, KAPL

INDUSTRY

- Manufacturing/Distribution

KEY BENEFITS

- Reduces cost of hardware and storage
- Provides data synchronization across disparate locations
- Allows for faster migrations and more internally developed code due to ease of use

SYBASE TECHNOLOGY

- Adaptive Server Enterprise (ASE)
- Replication
- PowerBuilder

Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited (KAPL) is a Government of India enterprise that manufactures and markets various life-saving and essential drugs. With an ISO accreditation from KPMG, Netherlands, KAPL is recognized for its total commitment to quality and services in domestic and international markets. KAPL uses Sybase ASE and Replication technology to manage and synchronize its data.

CUSTOMER PROFILE

KAPL has a manufacturing facility located at a distance of about 10 kms from its corporate headquarters, and has a number of branches spread across India that aid in the marketing and distribution of its products. When KAPL decided to pursue an application to integrate all the functions relating to marketing, distribution, production, finance and accounts, the IT team realized synchronization would be key issue.

As the Chief - IT at KAPL explains, "With a distributed network, and issues related to the availability of bandwidth and high-speed connections, we wanted a system that would include replication features, and would work optimally between our factory and headquarters, even with low-bandwidth connections."

FINDING THE RIGHT TECHNOLOGY

KAPL's application partner, Wipro, analyzed different databases and came to the conclusion that Sybase ASE was the only one that matched the criteria determined by KAPL. "Sybase was a good RDBMS, and with Sybase Replication, the user could continue doing his or her work, and the data would synchronize whenever communication linkages were open. This was the 'Update Anywhere' concept at work-where the data at the factory will get updated to the headquarters and vice versa. For example, goods received at a factory would also have the details at the headquarters, so that the finance team could process the bills," elaborates the Chief IT at KAPL.

In a way, KAPL was an early adopter of the internal replication features of Sybase more than 10 years ago, and has been quite happy with the performance at all times since then. "The Sybase architecture has absolutely no issues with respect to performance. Load-balancing, connectivity and other performance issues are handled seamlessly and we have never faced any downtime," says Chief IT, KAPL. There are about 24 concurrent connections and the application front-end developed in PowerBuilder is used by about 35 users. Reports are directly accessed by the same users using the PowerBuilder application itself.

Given this early and consistent success, Karnataka Antibiotics has steadily upgraded from its initial versions to move to the current version of Sybase ASE, and still follows the same architecture, though the hardware resources have changed throughout this timeframe. Routine maintenance is handled in-house, while the Sybase team is always available for any additional support.



BENEFITING FROM COST SAVINGS AND EASE OF USE

The major benefits for KAPL with the Sybase ASE and PowerBuilder environment has been the ease of use, the availability of data via the replication feature, savings on hardware resources and ability to customize.

The Chief IT at KAPL elaborates, "Sybase was one of the first to expand on its replication functionality. It is extremely easy to use, and all routine maintenance and queries are done internally itself". Because of the differences in the Sybase ASE architecture, KAPL has also saved in initial years on hardware resources such as storage or memory, as ASE can "manage with fewer resources."

KAPL has also been able to successfully migrate some of its stand-alone SQL Anywhere application to Sybase ASE by writing routines internally, and has also migrated to the newer version of Sybase ASE with ease.