Bottomline™

ASSA ABLOY

Locks in Efficiency Gains with Automated Accounts Payable Solution

Challenge

When tedious manual processes began impacting productivity, the accounting team at ASSA ABLOY knew it was time for a change. The organization was using Oracle Imaging and Process Management (Oracle I/PM) for accounts processing but with no interface for its JD Edwards EnterpriseOne (JDE) platform, the team spent a significant amount of time manually inputting invoices into Oracle I/PM. The manual process included scanning all invoices, emails and associated documents individually to attach them to the appropriate account. The Accounts Payable (AP) workflow had become a time-consuming, redundant, and costly process.

When ASSA ABLOY's accounting team learned the Oracle I/PM system was going to be phased out, it immediately began looking for a new solution that would better suit its needs. In addition, ASSA ABLOY decided to consolidate all AP duties to a single location and planned to transition all acquired group companies to JDE. As the accounting team compared a number of competing AP solutions, it found that Bottomline's solution seamlessly integrated with JDE and offered the workflow features that ASSA ABLOY required

"We would not have been able to improve our productivity with our old resources and it would not be possible without the Bottomline solution. At the end of the day, we made a very good choice."

– Dan Relihan, Director of Enterprise Applications and leader of Business Intelligence Team and JDE

ASSA ABLOY

ASSA ABLOY is the global leader in door opening solutions. The organization offers a complete range of door opening products, solutions and services for the institutional, commercial and consumer markets. Formed in 1994 through the merger of ASSA in Sweden and ABLOY in Finland, ASSA ABLOY has grown from a regional company to an international group with more than 46,000 employees.

BENEFITS

Gain visibility into cash flow and reduce costs where possible

Deploy new solution with proven integration to JD Edwards EnterpriseOne

Automate processes to improve invoice processing efficiency

Eliminate manual processes, improve workflows

> **"We are currently using Transform AP, with terrific results, in seven companies. Our hope is to replicate the success, and we plan to deploy the solution to another four or five companies this year alone."**

About Transform® AP

Transform AP is a software application that captures incoming supplier invoices, links these to EnterpriseOne for purchase order matching and/or exception processing, and enables online review and approval of the invoices for payment.

Transform AP is uniquely designed for use both with and within JD Edwards, providing seamless integration and visibility for everyday accounts payable users, while providing the same view of relevant invoice data to non-finance approvers within the organization via convenient web interface.

Learn how AP automation can positively impact your organization: The Accounts Payable Bicycle: Five Reasons Why Riding Is Better than Walking!

Read More

The Solution

The new AP solution needed to be user friendly, easy to integrate into the existing ERP system and provide a level of workflow optimization that would support the team as it printed and scanned thousands of documents per day. Transform AP for Oracle JD Edwards EnterpriseOne offered all of these benefits along with an improved user interface.

The product offered significant improvements, including the ability to process more invoices in less time compared to the previous system. Transform AP had the same user interface as JDE, significantly reducing the team's learning curve. The team was also particularly pleased with the sophisticated optical character recognition (OCR) that captured and validated invoice information and intelligently "fingerprinted" invoices on the fly to continuously improve recognition results.

The Results

With Transform AP, ASSA ABLOY no longer has to rely on cumbersome manual processes. Invoices are now automatically entered into JD Edwards after scanning and remote workers can easily access an image to review invoice information. "The solution posed no technical challenges to implementation, and proved to be an easy to install, user-friendly system that simplifies the entire invoice process," said Relihan.

Transform AP allows the team to easily collate and access all account-related documents through the system. These are uploaded during the coding and approval stage and are easy to attach in the system, so staff members no longer have to spend time searching for and attaching documents individually. The "paper clip" attachment feature helps reduce confusion, ambiguity and questions about charges and prints copies of invoices to support charges.

Transform AP was configured so ASSA ABLOY could benefit from an easy-to-use system that improved productivity. In addition to the easy implementation and transition, the Bottomline support team continues to collaborate with the accounting team to quickly resolve issues if they arise and helping whenever necessary.

In fact, the solution is so effective that ASSA ABLOY eventually plans to implement Transform AP in at least 30 to 40 of its group companies, expecting similar improvements to productivity and workflow.