

# Eplica

Using Micro Focus® Verastream® Host Integrator, Eplica quickly web-enables an AS/400 application and seals a big deal.

### Overview

San Diego-based Eplica provides business services to employment-staffing companies and other organizations across the U.S. Eplica often serves as a virtual IT department for their clients, offering automated staffing solutions (including back-office services). That means Eplica's own IT systems must be flexible enough to work with a variety of technologies and business models.

The chance to win a multi-million-dollar account set some urgent wheels in motion, and the Eplica IT team quickly employed Verastream Host Integrator to meet the prospect's requirements.

### Challenge

A "must have" for this large international company was the ability for employees to clock in and out directly from their PCs. Eplica could not economically provide onsite training for employees and managers to deal with complex

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**BRAD TAYLOR**  
Solutions Architect  
Eplica

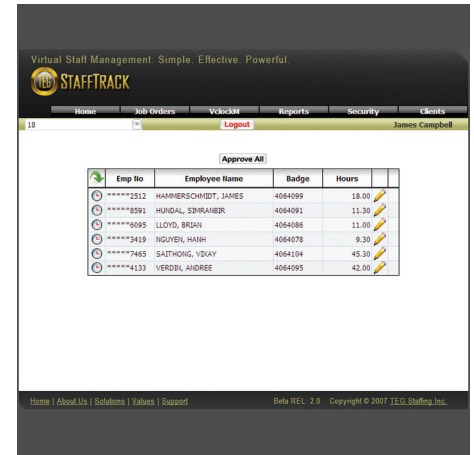
navigation or intimidating green screens associated with the AS/400-based timekeeping application. Therefore, Eplica would have to provide a new, user-friendly interface for employees.

Finding the right vendor for this challenge might have been a problem, except that Eplica already had a technology partner with more than 27 years of experience in mainframe and midrange systems. "As longtime users of Attachmate (now part of Micro Focus) Reflection® for the Web, we had come to value that product's security, centralized management, and user access via the web," said Brad Taylor, Eplica solutions architect. "That's why we've been using Reflection here for about as long as we've had computers."

### Solution

Partner loyalty and the appeal of a single-vendor solution led Eplica to evaluate Verastream Host Integrator for web-enablement of the timekeeping application. Taylor said they ultimately chose Verastream for three main reasons: product flexibility, exceptional robustness, and proven track record with customer service.

With Verastream Host Integrator, host data and logic are encapsulated as web services, XML, Java, or .NET components that can be integrated with other business applications. Because Verastream is noninvasive to the host, Taylor and his team quickly encapsulated key



### At a Glance

#### Industry

Professional Business Services

#### Location

United States

#### Challenge

Navigating through the complex green screens of an AS/400 timekeeping application was difficult and time-consuming for employees.

#### Solution

Use Verastream Host Integrator to web-enable back-end systems, without rearchitecting applications' code or security structures.

#### Results

- + Won a multi-million-dollar client contract.
- + Simplified and automated tasks while creating new capabilities (e.g., real-time reporting).
- + Cut costs and eliminated thousands of pages of paperwork.
- + Implemented rapid application-development platform for ongoing projects.

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data and logic from the timekeeping application, then used the resulting services to create a streamlined web interface—all without compromising security on the back-end system.

In just three days, Eplica had the new web-based timekeeping solution deployed and interacting with the prospective client. Some 220 employees clocked in, completely avoiding green-screen navigation while Verastream performed the complex operations on the back end. Users simply entered their badge number on a web page to activate the electronic time clock and trigger the automated procedure. “Managers were able to approve employees’ times right away,” said Taylor. “It was so easy that no training was necessary.”

## Results

The quick creation of that flawless functionality had the desired result: Eplica’s important prospect signed on to become a very satisfied client. That client realized millions of dollars in revenues during the first year of Verastream deployment, because they were able to offer their own clients a range of expanded services. Subsequently, that original valuable client generated some significant customer referrals for Eplica. “And none of it would’ve happened without Verastream,” Taylor said.

What’s more, in the process of using Verastream “to create services for their timekeeping solution, Eplica established a rapid application-

development platform for other projects. Because they don’t have to repeatedly abstract the technical and procedural details of the host application, each new solution can be created faster than the one before it.

For example, Eplica reused their already-generated services as building blocks for applications that run reports and follow the progress of each job in real time. In fact, Taylor said, “We continue to find new uses for Verastream every day.” He noted that, thanks to Verastream, Eplica has recently provided clients with online applicant tracking, automated billing, and order entry—in addition to the electronic timekeeping.

As a company whose tagline is “Fast Forward Your Profits,” it seems Eplica has discovered the best way to fast forward legacy integration, too. “Verastream has eliminated the keying in, reviewing, and approving of thousands of pages of paperwork for us,” said Taylor. “And because Verastream is so fast and easy to use, it’s given us huge cost savings.”

## About Micro Focus

Since 1976, Micro Focus has helped more than 20,000 customers unlock the value of their business logic by creating enabling solutions that bridge the gap from well-established technologies to modern functionality. The two portfolios work to a single, clear vision—to deliver innovative products supported by exceptional customer service. [www.microfocus.com](http://www.microfocus.com)



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