

# OS/390 Performance Results to Excel Reports: Xbridge Host Data Connect Expedites Report Generation

## Situation

Virtually all major financial institutions need to measure, report and analyze the performance of their mainframe systems, the lifeblood of their information processing system.

This analysis, however, was a major challenge for a large, international credit card company. The report initially took days. Even after significantly reducing that time with a group of macros, the user was still bound by the confines of an unsophisticated communication link and a manual translation process. The addition of Xbridge Host Data Connect™ to the company's technological arsenal dramatically changed that situation.

## Here are the details

The company uses statistical analysis software from SAS Institute to collect and summarize the performance data collected by the mainframe's OS. Once the data collection and preliminary summarization is completed, the user has to make the report information from the mainframe available to the PC. Only then can he perform detailed analysis and reformat the results in Excel spreadsheets, thus providing the base data for graphical reporting.

Easier said than done. This process required several manual steps, starting with a terminal-emulation communication package that supports running the File Transfer Protocol from the mainframe. The ftp utility cannot be restarted and is prone to transmission errors. If the communication link is broken (as frequently happened), the user had to start all over again, a time-consuming and laborious process.

Also, because ftp can only translate at the file level or not at all, the transferred data came across as EBCDIC. The user then had to translate the data to ASCII so that it could be loaded into Excel. The user had written macros to expedite this part of the process but, even so, getting the data to the point where he could

Before Xbridge	With Xbridge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Transfer data from mainframe to PC using FTP</i></li><li>▪ <i>Restart complete process if link broken</i></li><li>▪ <i>Convert data using custom macros</i></li><li>▪ <i>Analyze data</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Click on icon</i></li><li>▪ <i>Analyze data</i></li></ul>

start his analysis generally took several hours...and sometimes even days.

## Solution

With Xbridge Host Data Connect, the user is able, with a few quick clicks on the mouse, to get the information he needs in the format he wants. Xbridge Host Data Connect enables Microsoft Windows® XP, 2000, NT and 98/95 applications to directly access mission-critical data on an OS/390® mainframe.

The program replaced the transfer and translation steps, eliminating the need for ftp or the use of terminal-emulation software.

Specifically, Xbridge Host Data Connect transfers the data images through an industry-standard TCP/IP link. The product operates with zero latency providing high-performance access to data throughout the enterprise. There is true real-time access with millisecond speed and no queuing delays.

Xbridge Host Data Connect also replaced the manual-translation process because it automatically translates the EBCDIC data into Excel format. This is transparent to the user and virtually instantaneous.

## Results

In effect, Xbridge Host Data Connect has transformed the time-consuming, unsophisticated transmission-and-translation process into a quick, easy and efficient one. And, by streamlining the process, the program frees the user to concentrate on his real goal, the analysis.