

# Manufacturing

Global tire manufacturer drives forward with mobile applications for AS/400



“I was blown away by how fast and easy it was to develop our new AS/400 tablet app with OpenLegacy. We didn’t need to learn how to code for tablets and we didn’t need to change anything in the AS/400. We get all the benefits of the tablet, with the security and reliability of the AS/400.”

CIO, Tire Manufacturer

**Founded over 60 years ago, this global tire manufacturer and exporter has a presence in 120 countries. The company is the market leader for Off-Highway Tires: It manufactures and distributes cutting-edge tires for vehicles in special industries like agriculture, mining, construction, forestry, and manufacturing. Technology has always been at the heart of the company’s strategy, as a global company operating world-class R&D centers and factories in multiple countries, with a heavy investment in technology R&D as a core competitive advantage.**

## The Challenge

As part of their workflow, the company’s engineers had always spent a significant portion of their work day on the factory floor. As they moved around the factory, the engineers needed better access to product data - the ability to look at product images, product dimensions, and other product information - from anywhere and at anytime during their work day.

Unfortunately, product data was “locked” in an AS/400 application, making it accessible to the engineers only when they were at their office, by their desk, using their desktop computers. To further complicate matters, some of the product information was not part of the AS/400 application, but available only on disparate PDF files on the company’s network. This setup required the engineers to go back and forth between multiple screens on the AS/400, and the PDF files, in order to view all the relevant information for the products they were examining.

## About OpenLegacy

OpenLegacy enables enterprises to quickly and rapidly extend and transform legacy systems such as AS/400 and mainframes to the web, mobile and cloud. A standards-based open source development platform, OpenLegacy lets developers solve high impact business problems quickly, giving enterprises a new-found agility and opening the door to creative new solutions at a low cost and with a high rate of success.

Position your company for the future with OpenLegacy.

## The Solution

The manufacturer utilized OpenLegacy to unlock product data and make it accessible to its engineers wherever, whenever they needed it. Using OpenLegacy's OpenMobile module, it took the company just a few days to develop a tablet application that seamlessly integrated data from the AS/400 product catalog application and the PDF files.

It is easy for the engineers to pull up their tablet whenever there is a need to view product data. The tablet application lets users search for products, and see all the relevant product information aggregated from four different AS/400 screens, and from the PDF files. The information is displayed in a user-friendly format, that also allows for data updates back to the AS/400. In addition to tablet usage, the same application can be used from the engineers' mobile phones.

A second mobile application enables system administrators to perform administrative tasks such as resetting user passwords and unlocking users through their mobile phones - this application is especially useful during nights and weekends, when administrators are away from their desks.

## The Result

### **Mobilizing AS/400 data and business logic - without costly investment**

The manufacturer was able to liberate its product data and make it accessible to its engineers in any environment they needed it. This was done without investing much time and resources into developing a new application, and without having to modify the underlying AS/400 environment. OpenLegacy's OpenMobile module made it easy for the company's AS/400 engineers to develop the tablet application in just a few days, thanks to its easy-to-use development environment and its ability to create mobile applications without any changes in the AS/400 code.

### **Increased productivity and efficiency - leading to cost savings**

The new applications save the company's employees several hours each week that were previously spent going back and forth between the factory floor and the office, and navigating between multiple applications. These time savings are translated into thousands of annual employee time, or hundreds of thousands of dollars a year.



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