

Case study – NiceLabel makes labeling simple in a complex environment

This case study presents how database connectivity and use of NiceForm secure quick and reliable label printing in an almost chaotic environment.

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Company: Tipro <http://www.tipro.net>

Industry: Computer peripheral hardware

NiceLabel product: NiceLabel Suite

Summary

The company Tipro specializes in custom solutions for their customers in the area of computer peripheral hardware.

Hundreds of different products for numerous markets require a complex system, with one simple interface, still providing full control of the label, allowing to manually set data when needed.

NiceForm offers the user one single prompt field. When the number of work plan is entered, all required data is collected from the database.

Customer profile

Tipro is an international company providing computer peripheral hardware since 1985. Customization and diversity are the company's main characteristics visible on every corner. Owners come from U.K. to Japan, products are exported to all continents, to various markets—mainly POS, industrial and medical.

The company's slogan "Focusing on customer's needs" defines the production and business processes even to the degree of label printing. Every product is customized for each customer, making production and logistics extremely sophisticated. The label printing part is no exception.

Challenges

The system must be immune to human errors

Labeling is one of the processes where reliability is crucial

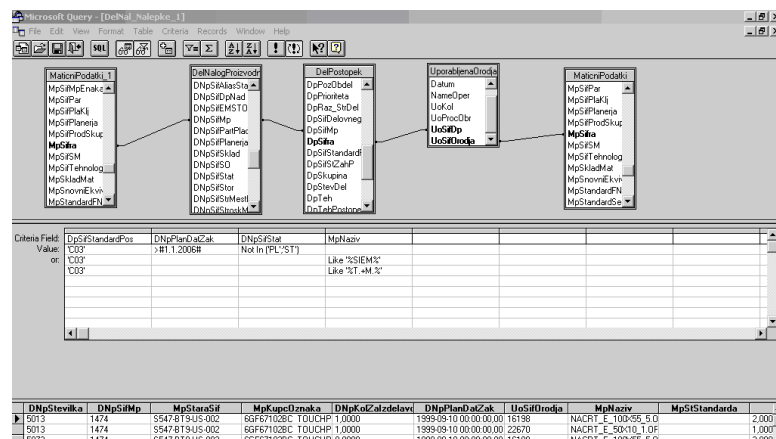
The company's database of parts, products and semi-products entry number is approaching 40.000.

Complexity makes it impossible to have full control or knowledge over labeling. Therefore, the main requirement is to have the system immune to human errors.

Products and customers diversity is the biggest challenge, resulting in 200 different label designs, despite extensive use of database connection.

In average, labels for approximately 50 different products or semi-products are printed on one printer every day.

There are three processes that are part of making any product: testing, labeling and packaging. The company can't afford failure in any of them.



A typical SQL statement to get one data for the label presents what kind of complexity NiceLabel is dealing with:

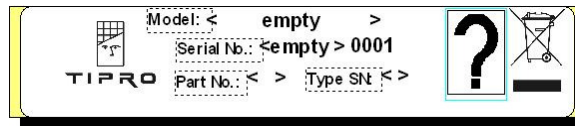
```

SELECT DelNalogProizvodni.Dnpstevilka,
DelNalogProizvodni.DnpsifMpd, MaticniPodatki_1.Mpstarasif,
MaticniPodatki_1.Mpkupcoznaka,
DelNalogProizvodni.Dnpkoizdelavo,
DelNalogProizvodni.DnpPlanatzak,
Uporabljenorodja.Uosiforodja,
MaticniPodatki_1.Mpnaziv, MaticniPodatki_1.Mpststandarda,
Uporabljenorodja.Uokol, DelNalogProizvodni.Dnpizdelanakol,
DelNalogProizvodni.Dnpsifstat,
MaticniPodatki_1.Mpopomba

FROM tipro.dbo.DelNalogProizvodni DelNalogProizvodni,
tipro.dbo.DelPostopek DelPostopek, tipro.dbo.MaticniPodatki
MaticniPodatki, tipro.dbo.MaticniPodatki_1 MaticniPodatki_1,
tipro.dbo.Uporabljenorodja Uporabljenorodja

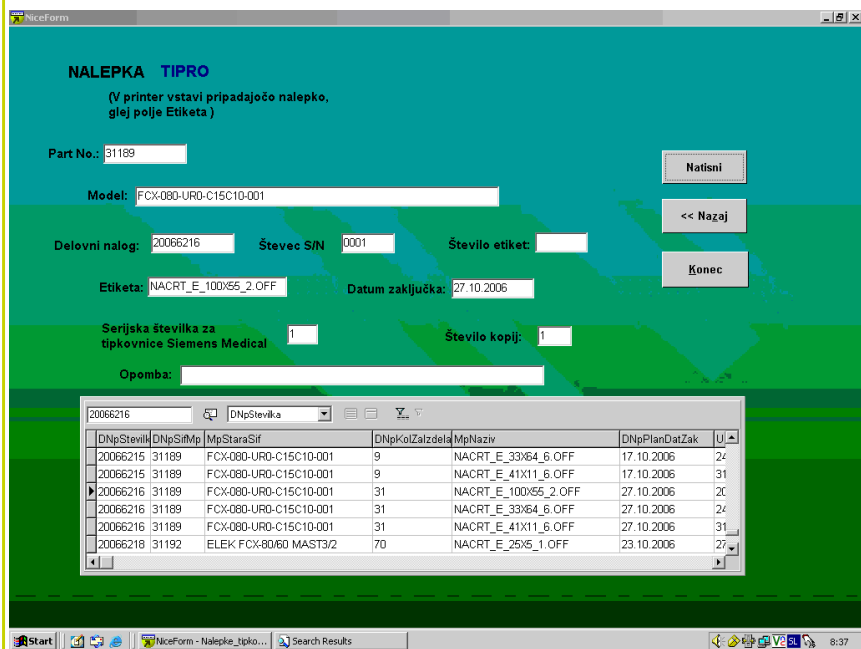
WHERE Uporabljenorodja.Uosiforodja =
MaticniPodatki_1.Mpsifra
AND DelPostopek.Dpsifra = Uporabljenorodja.Uosifodp
AND DelNalogProizvodni.Dnpsifmp = DelPostopek.Dpsifmp
AND DelNalogProizvodni.Dnpsifmp = MaticniPodatki_1.Mpsifra
AND ((DelPostopek.dpsifstandardPos='C03') AND
(DelNalogProizvodni.DnpPlanatzak>{ts '2006-01-01
00:00:00'})
AND (DelNalogProizvodni.Dnpsifstat Not In ('PL','ST')) OR
(DelPostopek.dpsifstandardPos='C03') AND
(MaticniPodatki_1.Mpnaziv Like '%SIEM%') OR
(DelPostopek.dpsifstandardPos='C03')

```

Model: < empty >
 Serial No.: <empty> 0001
 Part No.: < > Type S/N < >

NiceForm makes it simple:



NALEPKA TIPRO
 (V printer vstavi pripadajočo nalepko, glej polje Etiketa)

Part No.: 31189

Model: FCX-080-UR0-C15C10-001

Delovni nalog: 20066216 Števec S/N: 0001 Število etiket:

Etiketa: NACRT_E_100X55_2_OFF Datum zaključka: 27.10.2006

Serijska številka za tipkovnice Siemens Medical: Število kopij:

Opomba:

DNPStevila	DNPStaraSif	MpStaraSif	DNPkoiZalzdela	MpNaziv	DNPPlanDatZak	U
20066215	31189	FCX-080-UR0-C15C10-001	9	NACRT_E_33X64_6_OFF	17.10.2006	24
20066215	31189	FCX-080-UR0-C15C10-001	9	NACRT_E_41X11_6_OFF	17.10.2006	31
20066216	31189	FCX-080-UR0-C15C10-001	31	NACRT_E_100X55_2_OFF	27.10.2006	2C
20066216	31189	FCX-080-UR0-C15C10-001	31	NACRT_E_33X64_6_OFF	27.10.2006	24
20066216	31189	FCX-080-UR0-C15C10-001	31	NACRT_E_41X11_6_OFF	27.10.2006	31
20066218	31192	ELEK FCX-80/60 MAST3/2	70	NACRT_E_25X5_1_OFF	23.10.2006	27

Keys to success, conclusion

The system hasn't been changed since creation.

Using NiceWatch, labels could be printed without human intervention.

"NiceLabel Suite enabled us to create the system that has been running for years. The only changes I make are new label designs for new products, allowing me to focus on other tasks without worrying what could go wrong" said Sašo Selan, who is responsible for the system.

We noticed another option that could further reduce the need for human work. By connecting NiceWatch and the company's testing software (minor modification to the software would be needed but since they develop it on their own it would not be a problem), the labels would be printed automatically after each successful test. This would require also some investment for equipping each testing spot with a printer.