



SyncSort

Success Story: CitiStreet

CitiStreet Saves Millions Per Year by Efficiently Moving Benefits Applications from Mainframe to UNIX with SyncSort and FilePort

Organizational Profile

- One of the largest global benefits delivery firms in the United States
- Serves more than 7.5 million participants
- Administers approximately \$180 billion in assets

Business Need

- To reduce operating costs by moving from mainframe to UNIX while maintaining the same processing times

Environment

- HP-UX
- HP Superdome

Benefits

- Reduced comparable mainframe processes by up to 25%
- Processed up to 50 gigabytes in 15 minutes
- SyncSort easily integrated into batch processing application
- FilePort quickly converted monstrous amounts of EBCDIC data to ASCII

"The Syncsort products have proven gigantically helpful to CitiStreet in accomplishing this critical migration."

Barry Strasnick
CIO
CitiStreet

The Challenge:

CitiStreet, one of the largest global benefits delivery firms in the United States, is headquartered in Quincy, Massachusetts. The company serves more than 7.5 million participants and administers approximately \$180 billion in assets in the United States for defined contribution, defined benefit and health and welfare plans of corporate, government, health care, Taft-Hartley, and not-for-profit organizations. It also serves about 800,000 participants and administers about \$2.5 billion in assets outside the United States. In order to accomplish processing for its defined contribution plans, CitiStreet performs up to 5000 batch jobs a day. The data used in each batch job can be in excess of 50 GB and consists of all of the financial and demographic information involved in recordkeeping for a defined contribution retirement plan. The output is then used to create reports that provide detailed participant information.

Although the company was satisfied with the performance of the batch applications, they needed to reduce their ongoing cost structures, while still providing excellent service to clients. "Part of this strategy was to move from a mainframe to a UNIX environment for the SunGard OmniPlus® defined contribution recordkeeping system," explained CIO Barry Strasnick. "Because CitiStreet supports some very large defined contribution plans, along with thousands of smaller ones, efficiency is critical to our operation." The company not only had to find a way to convert the data from EBCDIC to ASCII, they also needed to achieve the same processing time results on UNIX that they experienced on a mainframe. They would be using an HP-Superdome running HP-UX.

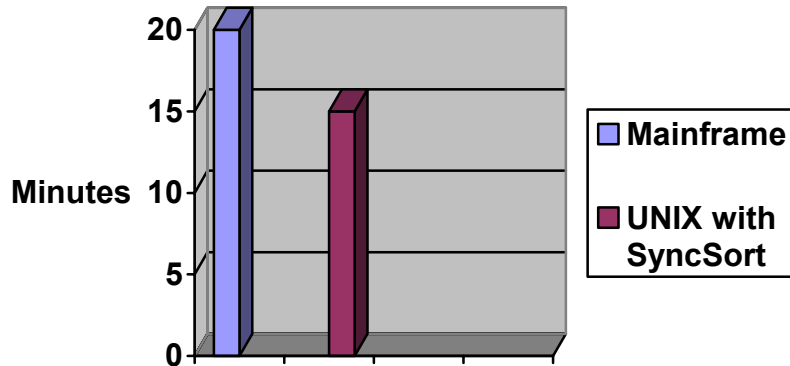
The Solution:

One of the options the company considered for converting the data to ASCII was to write a customized program. CitiStreet also evaluated FilePort for this step. To order the data, the company was planning on using the standard COBOL Runtime sort. Since Strasnick previously worked with SyncSort on various platforms, he decided to test it as well. "We benchmarked SyncSort against the COBOL Runtime functionality. SyncSort was superior," Strasnick stated.

The Benefits:

With SyncSort integrated into the application, Strasnick is very satisfied with the results. FilePort is able to quickly convert the data and SyncSort then orders it in as few as 15 minutes. "The Syncsort products have proven gigantically helpful to CitiStreet in accomplishing this critical migration. FilePort has made the conversion of monstrous amounts of data from EBCDIC to ASCII viable over limited processing windows. SyncSort allows our COBOL batch processing to be accomplished on the HP Superdome within the same or shorter time periods than on the IBM mainframe."

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SyncSort reduces comparable mainframe processes by up to 25%.

About SyncSort

SyncSort is a high-performance application accelerator that improves the performance of multiple applications and reduces elapsed time for a broad range of applications. It speeds ETL transactions by up to 90% and facilitates data mining and click-stream processing. SyncSort merges, aggregates, cleanses, and converts data. Other features include filtering, pattern matching, and partitioning. SyncSort will save you time in operations like data warehousing, data mining, data marts, CRM, ERP, DSS, BI, Oracle Financials, and legacy migration. Using Visual SyncSort, SyncSort applications can be created through a Windows-like GUI. For more information or to arrange for a free trial, call Syncsort at (201)930-8200 or visit www.syncsort.com.