

About NPR and The Chesapeake Computer Group, Inc.

National Public Radio has been providing cultural and informational programming to the public at large since 1971. Through NPR's growing membership, over 600 non-commercial public radio station members reach an average of nearly 15 million listeners weekly.

Based in Washington, D.C., NPR manages the world's first non-commercial, satellite-delivered radio system. A private, nonprofit corporation, NPR provides public radio stations with programming, professional development, promotional support, program distribution and representation in Washington on issues affecting the development of public broadcasting. With news bureaus in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, London and Moscow, and reporters in 15 other foreign locations, NPR sets the standard for comprehensive news reporting with its award-winning programs.

The Chesapeake Computer Group, Incorporated was formed in 1982 to provide highly specialized computer software for the radio networking industry.

Application Overview

The Chesapeake Computer Group, Inc.'s (TCCGI) Broadcast Automation package controls the operation of all satellite network radio broadcasts of National Public Radio (NPR). This system controls the audio routing switchers; controls modulator (transmitter) parameters; makes contact closures for tape machine starts, On-Air and Warning lights; controls digital audio storage systems; and operates any other device required to run the Public Radio Satellite System, which is managed by NPR. NPR's staff schedules 24 digital satellite channels, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for the over 425 non-commercial stations that have satellite down-links. This sophisticated system provides these public radio stations with radio programs that can be captured for later broadcast or aired live.



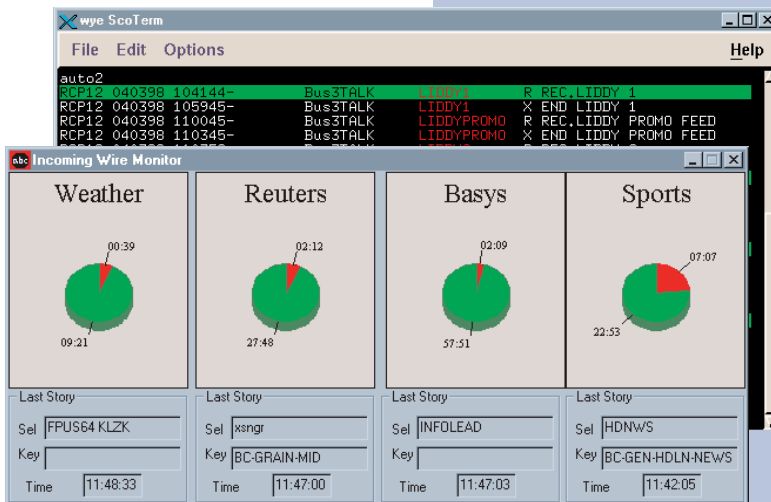
The Chesapeake Computer Group, Incorporated

Company:

The Chesapeake Computer Group, Incorporated

Industry: Radio Broadcast Automation

Requirements: Portability and reliability



FairCom and The Chesapeake Computer Group, Inc.

The stability, performance and flexibility FairCom's database technology has delivered to developers for over 20 years made the database choice for TCCGI's mission critical Broadcast Automation solution quite clear. The stability and performance of FairCom's client/server technology has proven itself in this highly sophisticated program distribution system for more than 6 years. The portability and flexibility of this database technology has allowed TCCGI to seamlessly migrate to the latest and most advanced UNIX platforms with NPR's growth.

TCCGI is executing the Broadcast Automation client side interface on a combination of Unix and Microsoft Windows, and uses the TCP/IP communication protocol to connect to a FairCom SCO database Server running on SCO's Unixware 7 operating system. Highly customized operations reports are generated using Crystal Reports with the FairCom Native Crystal Reports

"FairCom's database technology delivers the stability, performance and flexibility that large, expanding, sophisticated media network delivery systems require, and they have been doing this consistently for over 20 years."

Bruce Wahl,
President, The Chesapeake Computer Group, Incorporated.



Driver. The interoperability offered through FairCom's seamless heterogeneous support opens up the operating system choices for the developer and end-user. The FairCom architecture makes it easy to utilize virtually any combination of client-side and server-side operating systems. FairCom's unique approach makes it virtually seamless to migrate the database back-end across most popular operating systems including Windows, Apple Macintosh, Novell and most Unix platforms, including Linux and FreeBSD. Furthermore, through advanced communication protocol technology that incorporates automatic byte flipping, the developer can choose any desired client-side operating system platform. The truly heterogeneous nature of the FairCom database opens up many possibilities allowing the developer to implement a precise solution drawing on the strengths of any combination of hardware and/or operating system platforms.

Since 1982, TCCGI has selected FairCom's database technology for projects for National Public Radio, ABC Radio Networks, and Westwood One Radio (Infinity, CBS Radio, NBC Radio, CNN Radio, and Mutual Broadcasting System). These clients demand high performance, high reliability and scalability to meet the rigorous demands of providing 24 by 7 operation of their radio networks to serve millions of listeners nationwide.

The Details

With hundreds of stations relying daily on TCCGI and FairCom's database technology for broadcast automation, the choice of which database to use was an important decision. With the split second timing required for a seamless radio broadcast, performance is an integral requirement for any broadcast automation software. If a specific record retrieval takes too long, or worse yet, a database retrieval problem occurs, an on-the-air time delay could occur. By operating at an efficient ISAM level, the direct data reads and writes have always been extremely efficient and the creative byte region locking developed by FairCom offers exceptional data availability.

FairCom's flexible ISAM API offers the developer the flexibility and control to access the application data in a very precise manner. With approximately 150

functions, the developer has absolute control over the data, much more so than is traditionally offered by SQL based engines. This precise level of control and low overhead provides exceptional database access speed and performance.

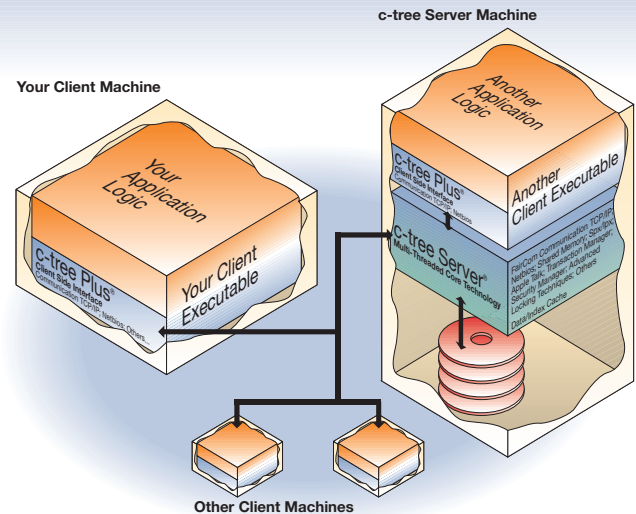
As the number of concurrent users requiring access to the data has grown over the years, a natural transition from FairCom's non-server based technology to the FairCom database Server was an obvious choice for TCCGI. The scalability offered by the Server's multi-threaded kernel and the enhanced data integrity of transaction processing make

the FairCom Server an obvious choice for the mission critical applications developed by TCCGI.

By supporting SCO's native threading kernel, the FairCom Server is able to take advantage of all the internal efficiencies offered by the operating system kernel. This results in expanded data throughput for the application.

In addition, the FairCom database Server offers a robust transaction processing API. This API includes roll forward, roll back, nested intermittent save points, and automatic recovery providing absolute data integrity.

FairCom Technology



FairCom® Server

FairCom's database Server offers exceptional performance by minimizing network traffic and utilizing the power of multi-threading. With heterogeneous network support, dissimilar clients can attach to any combination of FairCom Servers. Build the application for one platform and easily migrate to over 20 platforms. FairCom Servers are available for 32 bit Windows including Windows 2000, apple Macintosh, Novell Netware, OS/2 and most Unix environments including AIX, HP/UX, Linux, Sun Solaris (SPARC and Intel), QNX and many more.

FairCom® ODBC Driver

The FairCom ODBC Driver allows the end-user direct, easy access to c-tree or c-tree Plus files from ODBC compliant applications like Microsoft Office or Crystal Reports. FairCom's

ODBC Driver supports all Windows platforms with full read/write capability to your c-tree/c-tree Plus data and index files.

FairCom Crystal Reports™ Driver

The FairCom Crystal Reports Driver allows end-users to gain direct access to their FairCom data directly from Crystal Reports. There is no need to load an ODBC driver or incur the performance hit imposed by an ODBC translation layer. Therefore FairCom's native Seagate Crystal Reports™ Driver will afford faster reports than going through the standard ODBC layer. This Driver supports data from all versions of FairCom's c-tree Plus File Handler and FairCom Server products and works with Seagate's Crystal Reports V5.X and newer on all 32 bit Windows platforms.

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