

ASNA Case Study

Worley Warehousing uses ASNA Wings to modernize its RPG application portfolio

By Roger Pence

Worley Warehousing is one of the US's leading third-party logistics providers. In business since 1977, many of the world's most respected companies, and many small businesses, depend on Worley Warehousing's services to keep their businesses running smoothly. A long-time IBM i shop, Worley Warehousing recently turned to ASNA's Wings to provide a better UI and improved remote user access.

Introducing Wings

ASNA Wings is a revolutionary new IBM i application modernization platform. Using Wings, you can quickly and easily replace the native green-screen user interface with a modern and attractive browser-based alternative. With Wings, designated IBM i display files are

translated to browser-based displays. The default look and feel offered by Wings is much improved

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over the green-screen equivalent and these displays can also be further modernized by hand to make an even more attractive UI. Wings also works just fine with standard green-screen displays. It provides a built-in browser-based 5250 emulator and any display files not yet modernized with Wings are naturally displayed through this emulator.

At a glance...

Customer profile: Worley Warehousing was established in 1977. Many of the world's most respected companies, as well as many small businesses, rely on the broad and comprehensive array of logistical services that Worley Warehousing provides.

Situation: One of Worley Warehousing primary software packages is WAREPAK/400 which has been in use for years. It services Worley well but its interface needs an update and Worley needs to offer better remote user access.

Solution: Worley Warehousing chose ASNA Wings to modernize WAREPAK/400's UI. Wings built-in browser-based emulator will also solve remote user access challenges.

Solution benefits: With Wings application modernization, all RPG logic and file IO remains on the IBM i. Wings provides a substantially improved UI without needing to change or retest the legacy codebase.

Products: ASNA Wings, ASNA DataGate, ASNA Visual RPG, DB2/400, IBM i5



Great emulator and streamlined workflow

Dan Burnhardt, Worley's IT Director, was quickly impressed with Wings. Says Dan, "I was very quickly impressed with the browser-based 5250 emulator in Wings. That feature alone nearly won me over. Yes, I have screens that I need to make look better, but I also have many of them that look just fine as is. A big part of our challenge is providing reliable and easy remote user access to these applications."

But it wasn't just Wings emulator that got Dan's attention. He continues, "I'm also quite impressed with the streamlined workflow that Wings offers. I'm able to point and click and quickly perform basic modernization on a given display file. There isn't a heavy up front process or any analytical steps that I need to take. The process for modernizing display files with Wings is very direct and effective."

As a logistics server provider, it's beneficial for Worley Warehousing to let remote users onto their IBM i for query purposes (for example, to investigate inventory levels and shipment dates). In the past, Dan needed to worry about how to install and configure a 5250 emulator for these customers to use. With Wings, these customers will have natural access to the applications they need through Wings (sometimes using Dan's modernized displays and using the ASNA emulator for standard displays). This access does require an i5 job for each user, so its scalability is limited, but for the light, remote use Worley Warehouse needs, the access Wings provides will work very well.

Crossing the chasm

With Wings, you don't need to write any code to perform basic display file modernization. However, you may later want to add features such as Google Maps, data graphing, Web services, and other modern features to your modernized displays. Adding these functional features does require that you write some code (though probably not

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as much as you'd expect). Microsoft's Visual Basic, C# or ASNA's Visual RPG can be used to add these interesting application enhancements. These enhancements are all done with off-the shelf components—you aren't constrained by proprietary features. Wings application modernization is only limited by your imagination.

Wings is hosted in Microsoft Visual Studio. Visual Studio is a comprehensive Windows programming environment that is most typically associated with VB.NET and C#, but ASNA's Visual RPG (AVR) also works within Visual Studio. Having the old standby language available Visual Studio less imposing for RPG veterans.

Dan is an RPG veteran—having written thousands of lines of RPG over the years. Developing on the PC isn't what you'd call his native environment. Dan elaborates, "Having spent the vast majority of my time editing RPG in SEU, Visual Studio and ASNA Visual RPG did present a learning bump for me. But having the comfort zone of RPG inside



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The interface your RPG deserves

Wings was a great choice for Worley Warehousing and would also be a great choice for your business. It's quick and easy to use, very affordable, and produces results quickly. And, as Dan proves, is quite approachable even by RPG veterans to whom the PC isn't the native development platform. Get the user interface your RPG deserves. Get Wings!

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About ASNA

ASNA, provides comprehensive and flexible solutions for modernizing IBM i applications to the Microsoft .NET platform. ASNA enables companies to integrate and extend their solutions to .NET, the Web and beyond, while preserving investments in IT and human resources. ASNA solutions are distributed worldwide and used by more than a million end users.

ASNA is a Gold Level partner of Microsoft's Partner Network, Microsoft Visual Studio Industry Partner, and an Advanced Tier Member of IBM's PartnerWorld for Developers. ASNA is also a gold level partner of Microsoft's Platform Modernization Alliance.