



Courtesy of Bacardi - Martini



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Bacardi-Martini, in a league of their own

The Bacardi-Martini group needs no introductions as their range of designer and traditional drinks and spirits are known the world over

Operating from their main base in Southampton, the group also encompasses the "First Drinks Brands" distribution company, also the purveyor of many well-known spirits and wines such as "Glenfiddich" Scotch whisky and many other famous brands.

A multimillion pound turnover and trading success at this level brings its own share of issues in distribution and control as Peter Cooke, Bacardi's senior IT project manager explains.

"Bacardi run and develop an ERP system based on the GEAC "Drinks" AS400 package, although we have the source and have done a great deal of our own development in-house, there are just some things that you need a good third party system for, as it is impractical to develop everything yourself"

Peter continues, "Based on our need to operate two companies from a single resource, formatting and delivering the correct documents, in the correct format in the right identity to the correct location was a real headache, this is where ARIES and SabreFDI stepped in".

THE POD NIGHTMARE!

Like many companies Bacardi used to produce their despatch documents on multipart stationary with matrix printers, this caused a number of issues.

- Delivery errors were being made, as on a number of occasions the poor output quality of the matrix documents was being misinterpreted.
- The multi-part stationery for the two companies for this task was very expensive, as was maintenance of the (almost solely dedicated) printers.
- The A3 size documents were unpopular as they were difficult to file and handle.
- Other customs based documents concerning the movement, bonding and storage of alcoholic beverages also needed to be produced at the same location, also in multi-part sets.
- At a future date the company wished to scan the returning Pod's and knew the current size and quality of the documents would make this very difficult.

Peter says in conclusion 'With Aries products and technical assistance we moved all our customer facing documents over to laser printing using SabreFDI to both format the documents and control the delivery". "Our despatch documents have much improved in quality with the move to A4. By using SabreFDI we now print 4 copies on different coloured NCR treated paper from different trays on HP 8000 printers, each 4 document set being individually marked and each set is automatically stapled together. Costs are lower all round and most importantly the instances of delivery errors due to incorrectly interpreted documents have fallen dramatically".

The BACARDI document management solution

Sabre FDI Printing Using the multi-purpose and low cost practicality of the HP8000 printer range, "Click" Auto each equipped with multiple trays and the Stanle stapler unit. Each despatch location now produces all warehouse and despatch related documents "On demand" from one NCR carbon A4 Despatch Document Click" Auto Customs Document sets

Other customer facing documents are produced on HP 4000 duplexing multi bin lasers. Items such as purchase orders and schedules are automatically formatted then printed, faxed or e-mailed by SabreFDI

Kofax Image Scanning

Facing the need to track and trace Pod's and have the ability to retrieve a document and get it to the customer instantly if required, Bacardi-Martini chose the Kofax Ascent image solution supplied and configured by Aries.

As the worlds most sold OEM scanning engine with Optical Character & Mark recognition among its many features, Kofax Ascent was an easy choice.

Sabre Arc Archiving

Bacardi staff can find any archived document almost instantly and have the option of fax or e-mail from their desktop.





This item is a "Patch code". This code is used to identify "Registration" documents that contain indexing information, other documents such as customers GRN's are appended to registration documents.

Reporting

Because SabreArc has a record of which despatch notes have been produced, MS Access is used to produce "Exception" reports to highlight POD's that are past the due date for scanning. The reports are produced "Per haulier" so it is then a simple matter to chase the source for the missing documents.





Bacardi TUE DELLEGIO

Automatic formatting and distribution of documents to laser, fax & e-mail saves on printing, stationery and delivery cost.

Automatic archiving of documents means that Bacardi admin staff can retrieve, print fax or archive documents direct from the desktop, saving labour costs, storage costs and time. Credit chasing invoices is now a faster process, which improves cash flow.

OCR and IMR technology allows Bacardi admin staff automatic storage of scanned Pod documents with little or no operator intervention other than feeding them into a scanner. This eliminates the need for much of the manual sorting of documents and eliminates the storage space required.

The OMR (Optical Mark Recognition) technology, combined with standard reporting tools allows Bacardi to immediately "Zero-in" on Pod documents that have issues, they can also statistically review what the issues are.

This means that invoice disputes are settled faster improving the cash flow and they are always assured that Pod documents are available due to "Exception" reporting.

The Future

Bacardi intend to reduce storage costs further by introducing scanning for supplier invoices with full "Notes" workflow for the approval process.