

Completely Built to Last

Sirius Computer Solutions delivers increased availability to building supply company

In today's competitive retail environment, getting and keeping a customer's business is more challenging than ever before. McCoy's Building Supply Centers is faced with a number of market challenges including increased competition from traditional building supply competitors like Home Depot, growth in non-traditional building supply companies like Wal-Mart, and a slowing economy. To meet these challenges, McCoy's became ever more focused on delivering superior customer service and high quality products at competitive prices. McCoy's also realized that they needed an IT foundation they could build on and turned to Sirius Computer Solutions to assist with their plans.

Sirius helped McCoy's build a system with improved availability, speed and data management with IBM's pSeries, Advanced Interactive Executive (AIX), High Availability Cluster Multiprocessing (HACMP) and Tivoli Storage Management (TSM). "Thanks to Sirius, we have significantly improved our customer's experience," commented Dennis Strong, Vice President and CIO for McCoy's Building Supply Centers. To accomplish this, McCoy's needed much more than just a technology refresh.

McCoy's was nearing the end of a 36-month lease on their multiple IBM RS/6000 H50 servers and their storage system, which ran their major business operations including retail stores, inventory and accounting. Initially, the project scope was to replace the existing hardware for increased speed and availability. In addition, Sirius had several discussions with the McCoy's IT staff regarding backup and recovery and disaster recovery as it related to



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their business goals. Since every keystroke from their 91 stores runs through their servers at their South Texas headquarters, it became clear that an enterprise backup and recovery system was needed. It was McCoy's goal to simplify their IT support requirements and not add any unnecessary complications. To meet that goal, Sirius provided TSM implementation services to establish production systems backup/recovery prior to the production cutover of the new systems. The TSM implementation included training and knowledge transfer for their IT staff.

Sirius also assisted the McCoy's team with moving their IBM HACMP implementation services from their IBM H50s to the new eServer pSeries 6H1 complex, to run in parallel to their production system. Cutover, would merely entail unplugging from the IBM H50 complex and plugging into the new IBM 6H1 complex.

Reduction in the end of day processing environment has resulted in extending online system availability for an extra hour after the store closes, allowing employees needed time to resolve any outstanding issues. Additionally, the batch window time has been reduced by three hours.

Preparation for the cutover to the new systems and software was a Sirius and McCoy's team effort. The implementation was accomplished ahead of schedule. In fact, Cheri Hisaw, McCoy's IT manager said, “Not only did we cutover the new systems to production ahead of schedule, but it was truly remarkable how smoothly the implementation went.”

Customer: [McCoy's Building Supply Centers](#)
Industry: [Retail](#)
Solution: [High Availability & Storage Management](#)
Software: [AIX, HACMP, TSM](#)
Hardware: [6H1s, B50s, B80, 7133-D40s, 3584-L18 library & LTO drives](#)
Services/Support: [HACMP & TSM Implementation services, ServiceSuite](#)

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Not only did Sirius put together a total solution, they provided additional HACMP services and backup and recovery via TSM. The total solution resulted in lower monthly payments that were even inclusive of maintenance support.

The new IBM H61s are three times faster than their previous systems. “The real story here, is Sirius' genuine value add. Everybody talks about it, but Sirius actually delivered it,” said Strong.

“With Sirius, McCoy's now has an expert resource on IBM, AIX, HACMP, TSM and other technologies to move their business forward as well as having a single solution back up strategy for their AIX and NT environment. Sirius' responsiveness to us as a customer was exceptional and we will be looking to them in the future to support ongoing technical projects.” added Strong. In honor of Sirius' commitment to McCoy's success, Sirius received the McCoy's Vendor Partner Appreciation award.

“When other vendors talk to us about partnerships, we enjoy referencing Sirius as an example of how it's done,” said Strong.

For additional information on how **Sirius Computer Solutions** can help your organization, contact us at **800-460-1237 x1003** or visit our website at **www.siriuscom.com**

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