

SEVERN TRENT WATER PLC

Customer Case Study



**WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING
PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE STRATEGIES THAT DIRECTLY
IMPROVE YOUR COMPANY'S BOTTOM LINE.**

Delivering workforce solutions to help companies develop and maintain their leadership position in the marketplace.

BACKGROUND | Severn Trent Water Ltd made a business decision to implement 24 hour pro-active control of company network assets. This decision was taken after extensive evaluation set against a background of increasing customer and regulatory demands.

Historically the company had operated an emergency service, utilizing duty personnel operating from home in each county within the company operational area, with information disseminated from county-based control rooms monitored by a single person out-of-hours.

It was evident that this mode of operation was becoming increasingly unsustainable given the large geographical area covered West/ East from Machynlleth in Wales to the Leicester/Northamptonshire border and North / South from Sheffield to the Bristol Channel. This area covers the industrial heartland of central England with the major conurbations of Birmingham and the West Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Leicester, Nottingham and Derby and several other major towns and cities.

CHALLENGES | After the decision was taken a project team was tasked with shaping the new Network Management Centers. They produced a plan whereby two centers were envisaged one covering the western counties and the other covering the eastern counties.

Each center would operate as a mirror of the other with control and telemetry capabilities and being staffed on a 24/7/365 basis. Initially, the centers each had 45 staff, who were drawn from existing company personnel, but who had never worked shifts before. As an interim solution a Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet was devised which was used to allocate staff to shifts and to control and record individuals shift patterns.

Whilst this solution worked in the short term it soon became evident that in the longer term a more flexible solution was needed. The spreadsheet soon became over 10Mb in size and took up a large amount of LAN bandwidth. It was also not particularly robust, constantly crashing and losing data requiring restoring from days-old backups, which were not up to date.





“We measure our performance according to the impact that we have in driving your business forward.”

~ RICHARD MILLS | DIRECTOR

KEYS TO SUCCESS | A search was undertaken of scheduling software using, primarily, the Internet as a source. Several options were evaluated and exhaustive testing undertaken including obtaining evaluation copies of software, which was trialed for practicality in the particular circumstances of the environment it was to be used in.

A evaluation copy of Schedule24 Resource Manager was obtained and tested on a standalone workstation in the first instance. The software proved reliable and easy to use with only minor issues surfacing which were speedily dealt with by Intellicate customer support.

The next stage was to undertake a full-blown trial over the company LAN that required compatibility testing under Windows NT and packaging and distribution using SMS. Different users were given the trial software so as to encompass a full range of computing abilities. The software proved easy to learn, flexible and again only minor compatibility issues were found, which were speedily dealt with by Intellicate.

The final stage was to formulate a business case for deployment of the software as a solution to the increasingly urgent problem of scheduling effectively. This was further given urgency as the company had decided to move from a Lotus Smart Suite based business to a fully Microsoft Office based business resulting in a need to convert the existing spreadsheet to Excel at great cost or to move to a standard packaged solution.

The business case decided that the best course of action was to implement a scheduling package and that this was to be Schedule24 Resource Manager. The trial had shown that this fitted the needs of the managers and staff, was flexible and robust. Support from Intellicate was excellent and they proved receptive to the company needs and suggestions for improvement of the product.

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RESULTS | The concept of the control centers has proven to be sound so a decision has been made that, as well as 24 hour control of the clean water assets, the sewerage assets should have a similar level of pro-active control.

This will result in an increase of some 30% in staffing levels on each shift over a 24 hour period. Again these staff will be drawn from existing employees who have never worked shifts before and will require a similar level of rota management. Fortunately, the solution is in place in the form of Schedule24 Resource Manager.

Other areas of the business are also looking at increased 24 hour cover rather than the present emergency on-call situation. It is pleasing to see that they are also considering Schedule24 Resource Manager as a possible solution to their needs.

Severn Trent Water is a member of the Severn Trent Group of companies. Severn Trent Water is the world's fourth largest privately-owned water company. Serving over 8 million customers across the heart of the UK, stretching from the Bristol Channel to the Humber, and from mid-Wales to the East Midlands.

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ABOUT INTELLICATE

Intelligate is the global leader in employee scheduling software. Offering small, medium and fortune 500 companies a revolutionary means of providing hassle-free employee scheduling.

Our flagship product, **Schedule24 Resource Manager** delivers greater functionality than more costly systems. Ideal whether you're new to employee scheduling or a seasoned pro. No risk, no cost to discover new efficient ways of working.

To learn more about Schedule24 Resource Manager, please visit our website: www.intelligate.com



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