

# SPREADSHEET AUTOMATION SOLUTIONS

## AEP Industries, Inc. Case Study

**“Spreadsheet Server for use with QAD is superior to other tools.  
We’ve utilized a plethora - they all failed to meet our needs.”**



### USER QUICK FACTS

**Customer since:** 2006

**Users:** 17

**ERP System:** QAD®

**Products:**

- Spreadsheet Server
- Distribution Manager

***“Spreadsheet Server has saved us an unbelievable amount of time due to its’ live and dynamic drill down capability, ad hoc analysis, and the ability to customize reports. We no longer need to bring in additional resources to create or modify reports.”***

**Robert Runz  
Controller  
AEP Industries, Inc.**

### Introduction

AEP Industries, Inc. originally came to Global with only one intention- to significantly improve a historical budgeting process that took an excessive amount of time. Global introduced them to Spreadsheet Server and Distribution Manager, two integral products in their flagship spreadsheet automation suite. AEP took a closer look at the products and liked what they saw. Once they made the decision to move forward with Global’s solutions they realized that they would not only drastically improve that budgeting process, but they would use them for many other financial analysis and reporting purposes as well.

### Situation & Strategy

A global leader in flexible packaging products, AEP has 10 locations including 9 in North America and 1 in Europe. AEP manufactures over 15,000 types of multi-purpose and flexible packaging films. Worldwide, their facilities produce over 800 million pounds of film per year. As AEP continued to grow they recognized the need for more robust reporting and analysis capabilities while simultaneously leveraging their current investment in Microsoft® Excel.

Before discovering Spreadsheet Server, AEP relied heavily on manual human intervention in their spreadsheet processes often bringing in additional resources to help create the multiple variations of the reports they used for budgeting. On many occasions, more than 400 reports had to be created. If AEP needed to modify those reports the entire manual process would have to be repeated. It was clear to AEP that they needed a product that could do all of this for them more efficiently. AEP began the search for a Microsoft Excel-based solution that fit their specific criteria but none of the tools they found included all the capabilities they required... until they found Global Software, Inc. After their exhaustive search and evaluation, AEP chose Spreadsheet Server and Distribution Manager for use with QAD, which exceeded all of their needs.

### Results

Three years after the deployment of Global’s automation solutions, AEP happily states that Spreadsheet Server has transformed their overall spreadsheet environment. It saves them “enormous” amounts of time in their financial reporting and analysis. They no longer have to toggle between the QAD host GL and their Microsoft Excel interface. Spreadsheet Server for use with QAD affords each user the opportunity to dynamically drill-down to retrieve supporting details all within the familiar confines of Excel. Once their reports are complete they use Global’s Distribution Manager to disperse them seamlessly throughout the enterprise. AEP looks forward to moving into the next generation of spreadsheet automation with Global Software, Inc.



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## Spreadsheet Automation Tools Utilized by AEP



Spreadsheet Server is a Microsoft® Excel add-in that allows users to access 'live' data within Excel, while maintaining the ability to drill down to supporting details. Leverage the familiarity of Microsoft Excel as a reporting and analysis tool while providing up-to-the-minute dynamic data. Users of Spreadsheet Server can simply open a spreadsheet and watch the balances of their spreadsheet populate with dynamic financial balances. The unique drill down capability takes the tool to a new level of detail by allowing individual transactions to be monitored.



Distribution Manager automates the delivery of key business information to your critical users. Eliminate unnecessary printing, copying and e-mail attachments. Empower your users with a tool that delivers this business-critical information in an easy efficient manner. Benefits include automated, full delivery of reports and files through e-mail, printing, and archiving, unlimited file attachments of all types, ability to define key variables available to all spreadsheets, ability to provide custom parameters to spreadsheets prior to re-calculating, and much more.

*Global Software, Inc. supports 4,000+ customers in 40 countries across a variety of ERP platforms. Global is a proud partner of the QAD user community.*



**WANT TO  
KNOW MORE?**

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