

## PROJECT BRIEF

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**Project Number:** SIM050702

**Customer:** SIMMS

**Concept Systems' Contact:** Clay Horste

**Project Name:** Domino Interface Application

**Description:** Sims Manufacturing has been providing fruit box stamping equipment for more than 20 years. In the early years the stamping equipment was mechanical and was quite reliable. The problem arose when regulatory rules mandated more complex messages to be stamped on the box. Due to competition and other pressures Sims took a hiatus in stamping equipment, but loyal customers convinced Sims to get back into the game. Sims made 2 attempts to create robust but easy to use stamping software, with other vendors, before contacting Concept Systems Inc.

The goal of this project was to create a comprehensive user interface for all of Sims' customers varying needs that was also easy to use. An additional goal was to utilize an industry standard database to make data management easier. The result is Sims Inkjet Software, in which Sims has installed at 14 locations that pack apples, cherries and pears.

Sims Inkjet Software communicates with a scale and barcode scanner to determine a box's contents before determining what to print on the side. The software also communicates with a PLC to control rejections if a box is underweight or unknown to the software. Once a box's contents is known Sims Inkjet Software will retrieve the information on that box from its database, and will send a live customized image to as many as 4 varying color inkjet printers from Domino Amjet. All information about the box is then stored in a database for later reporting. Reports are embedded into the software but are also available over customer's local intranet as well. The software also communicates with Sims Box Trafficking software to route boxes depending on their barcode as well.

Sims Inkjet Software is easy for Sims' technicians to setup and requires modest training for the end operator while having enough sophistication to manage large amounts of data in an increasingly regulated fruit industry.

### Services Provided:

- Providing a turnkey solution for printing information on the sides of fruit boxes, which takes about 10 feet of conveyor space.
- Re-using the existing Delphi application's look & feel for reduced training requirements.
- Interfacing and support for a field configurable number of printer models and ink colors.
- Scalability built into the application - can run one line with a single PC or can be expanded to multiple lines and an array of clients with a server without code changes.



### Results:

- Easily configurable system for a wide variety of fruit packing plants without custom programming
- Reduced setup costs
- Robust Reporting Options
- Easily integrated into plant

### Technologies/Platforms Used:

- Microsoft Visual Studio 2005
- Allen-Bradley Micrologix 1100 PLC
- Microscan Barcode Scanner
- Cardinal Scale
- Domino Amjet C-series printers
- Ethernet Communications
- Active Server Pages and Crystal Reports