

# Ascent Healthcare Solutions



## OVERVIEW

Leading independent reprocessor of medical devices, implements inventory management solution with RFgen Mobile Foundations for JD Edwards.



Scan code to read the full case study



### SNAPSHOT

INDUSTRY:  
Healthcare

ENVIRONMENT:  
Oracle JD Edwards  
EnterpriseOne v8.12

APPLICATIONS:  
• Inventory Control

### GOALS ACHIEVED

- 1 Automated inventory identification and data capture.
- 2 Implemented wireless handheld barcoding system.
- 3 Successful solution rollout within one-month deadline.

“ RFgen seemed to be the solution that made the most sense. 90% of what we're doing is just plug and play. ”

- Mark McGrath, IS Director  
Ascent Healthcare Solutions

## THE CHALLENGE

Outside influences like corporate mergers and FDA compliance keep Ascent's Director of Information Services, Mark McGrath, very busy ensuring the systems that support inventory management are up to the task. McGrath embraced the opportunity to upgrade Ascent's manual JD Edwards ERP inventory system to integrate with an automated identification and data capture system.

Ascent, known at the time as Alliance Medical Corporation, merged with its competitor, Vanguard Medical Concepts. As part of the system

integration process, Ascent needed to implement an automated identification and data capture system Vanguard already had in place for its shipping operation. As a result of the merger and the company's enhanced business model, Ascent needed to support FDA protocols for inventory management. One of those protocols was using a wireless handheld barcoding system, known as automated and data capture (ADC) for inventory management. ADC uses handheld, vehicle-mounted and stationary computers for data collection from barcoded inventory over a wireless network. Such systems allow for more precise and



timely warehouse management, asset tracking, delivery, sales, inventory management, and other business processes.

While ERP systems support automated data collection, incorporating the functionality into an ERP system typically requires a great deal of front-end customization. Many middleware products on the market tend to be proprietary, expensive, and resource intensive. McGrath had limited resources, funds, and time to implement the system. "I had five developers on staff and a two-month implementation time frame and I used up half that time making the vendor selection."

## THE SOLUTION

McGrath chose to work with RFgen JD Edwards Integration Suite on a rapid application development (RAD) effort based on the company's Microsoft Windows-based ADC integration software for JD Edwards EnterpriseOne and World.

RFgen simplifies the entire development process, enabling developers to bring applications to production more quickly with more functionality and less hand coding. Features such as connectivity management, program flow control, and error handling are built into RFgen, tested, and fully debugged so that developers focus their efforts on the application's logic itself. With the RFgen "Total Knowledge Transfer" program

“ We made our deadline. RFgen developers worked nights and on the weekend to insure that we did. ”

- Mark McGrath, IS Director  
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users can take complete ownership of the solution and thereby obtain the lowest total cost of ownership (TCO) in the industry. This approach is perfect for the JD Edwards ERP user who has in-house JD Edwards expertise, Visual Basic programming skills and wants to take complete ownership of the ADC solution.

Using RFgen, developers directly embed the ERP system's business rules as objects in the RFgen application. The ERP system interacts directly with the

embedded business objects eliminating the need for additional logic on the ERP system itself. A collection of pre-written JD Edwards open source transaction sets further simplify development and deployment providing developers a starting point for data collection functions. Further, RFgen supports the ever-present Microsoft Visual Basic programming language. "VB developers are very abundant," McGrath said. "We don't do a lot of Microsoft programming now, but in the future we can take advantage of the VB support and provide our own internal development."

RFgen supports 24/7 data collection operation. If the system goes down, local validation tables and RFgen's transaction management server allow users to continue working by validating and queuing transactions for batch processing on the ERP system when it comes back on line.



## ABOUT ASCENT HEALTHCARE

Ascent Healthcare Solutions, a division of Vanguard, is the leading independent reprocessor of medical devices for top hospitals and healthcare providers throughout North America. Since its inception, Ascent customers have safely reprocessed in excess of 50-million medical devices eliminating in excess of 10,000-tons from local landfills and saving over \$500-million from their costs by reprocessing and recycling medical products they would otherwise have needlessly thrown away.