

# Trioplast - Case Study

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## Critical issue

- ▶ ERP application known as OPOF required a modern look with added integration functionality

## Solution

- ▶ Improved user interface with multiple integration functions for Windows and mouse click events
- ▶ Easy-to-use, advanced refacing tools, combined with advanced macro features and integration functionality to suit their requirements

## Results

- ▶ Improved business process automation and reduced errors resulting from automated integration
- ▶ Eliminated double maintenance – Trioplast can now alter, enhance or add new functionality to screens without worrying about double maintenance
- ▶ Ability to take applications beyond a simple reface with more sophisticated integration capabilities
- ▶ Reduced training time and costs of getting staff up to speed by involving them in formal newlook training

## Trioplast modernize their iSeries application and improve user productivity

### Background

Trioplast is a large multi-national company headquartered in Smålandsstenar, Sweden and with sales offices and manufacturing plants in various countries including Denmark, France and Germany. It has around 1500 employees and net sales in 2002 of SEK2.9 billion (Euro 315m). Trioplast's 4 main divisions Industrial Film, Stretch Film, Hygiene Film and Printed Packaging have been long time IBM Midrange users.

### Challenge

The Industrial Film Division manufactures and markets packaging film, primarily for industry, as well as recycled products. The main products are customised shrink and industrial films and industrial bags. Stretch hood film and FFS (Form, Fill and Seal) are key product groups.

Large volumes of refuse sacks are manufactured from recycled polyethylene within the Recycled Products line. The market is mainly central and northern Europe. Manufacturing takes place at plants at Nyborg in Denmark, Wittenheim in France and at Smålandsstenar and Fjugesta in Sweden. The facility at Sundsvall in Sweden manufactures special products for timber wrapping.

In 2003, the IT management at the division in Nyborg, Denmark identified a requirement to update their ERP application known as OPOF, which handles Order Processing, Planning, Follow Up and Invoicing.

The application is also used in the division's other locations at Fjugesta & SIFAB (Sweden) and Wittenheim (France). It was developed in-house by the development team at Nyborg and specifically tailored to the plastics business.

It operates in three different languages and consists of 700 screens.

After initial discussions with and presentations from looksoftware's Danish reseller – Excel Data – the decision was made to move ahead with the project using newlook.

In the words of Niels Henrik Egebjerg, IT Developer at Nyborg, "OPOF needed a facelift! We wanted a more modern look for the application plus the ability to have integration with a variety of Windows functions and mouse click events".

Training was another issue, and apart from providing existing users with a much improved interface, they needed to be able to more easily train new users – who typically have no experience with traditional navigation methods like function keys and subfile options. Major productivity gains were expected from improved business process automation and reduced errors resulting from automated integration of OPOF with desktop applications like Word, Excel and Outlook.

**"We wanted a more modern look for the application plus the ability to have integration with a variety of Windows functions and mouse click events."**



“looksoftware’s **centric** toolset will allow us to easily and cost-effectively integrate our back-end applications with our core ERP application OPOF.”

## Solution

“We tested **newlook** and another leading vendors product and chose **newlook** for a number of key reasons.”

These included:

- It was very easy to use and we were working effectively with it almost from the start
- It is great for reducing the burden of maintenance – it’s dynamic ‘on-the-fly’ architecture means we can alter or enhance screens or add new functions within OPOF with no double maintenance. This was a high priority for us as OPOF is a very dynamic application. Due to the need for constant changes, managing the on-going development process had to be easy and efficient
- The excellent value of macro functions. During the assessment of **newlook**, we quickly realised the benefits we could have from utilising these macros. We have implemented transfer of data to Excel spreadsheets, auto-generated emails in specific situations and have the option to easily retrieve relevant data from other environments.

It soon became evident to us that all of these macro functions were a major plus factor in choosing **newlook**.

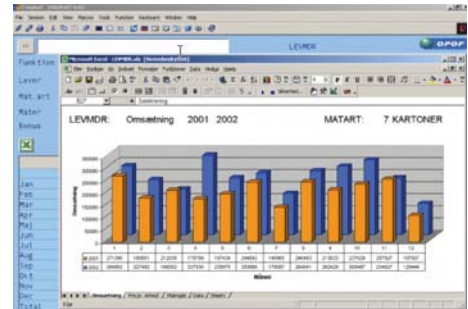
- Most importantly, we needed to know that **looksoftware’s** products would take us beyond a simple reface. We needed more than just a pretty face and ease of use for OPOF! So the path forward using **centric** for application integration is an important next step.

## Benefits

Having made their choice, Trioplast embarked on a formal training program. They had learnt a lot during the product assessment process but they opted to take formal training to consolidate their knowledge of the product.

They found that the training gave them a really good understanding of exactly how **newlook** works and it also gave them the confidence to get the project underway from a much stronger starting position.

“We really believe it saved us a lot of time in the long run”, said Niels.



The ongoing support from Excel Data has been excellent. The Nyborg team has also kept close contact with **looksoftware** so as to keep themselves up-to-date with upcoming enhancements to the product suite.

“Looking forward, we are currently in the process of taking our modernization project to the next stage where Enterprise Application Integration is the top priority. **looksoftware’s centric** toolset will allow us to easily and cost-effectively integrate our back-end applications with our core ERP application OPOF”, said Niels.

“We considered the options within the macro function as a large plus when we decided to use **newlook**.”

Niels Henrik Egebjerg, IT Developer

Contact us to arrange a live webcast and see the difference a dynamic architecture can make to your productivity.

