

**PROBLEM**

Accessing financial data after an upgrade to Windows<sup>®</sup> 2000

**RESULTS**

- Simpler integration of front- and back-office computers
- Transition to a new Windows platform within 24 hours

**UCB MIGRATES TO WINDOWS<sup>®</sup> 2000**

UCB (Union de Crédit pour le Bâtiment) has more than 50 years of experience in real estate financing. Thanks to its services, more than five million people in France have financed the purchase of their homes.

Present throughout the French market, UCB designs financial plans for its customers. UCB is backed by local teams consisting of 150 financial counselors in 24 regional offices, linked to central sites in Nantes and Rueil-Malmaison, near Paris.

**Changing Desktop Platforms**

In 2001, UCB launched a project to update its computer network, including some 1,600 workstations and 150 servers. They wanted a uniform standard for all their platforms. The aim was to provide the entire UCB network—central sites, regional offices and employees—with one set of tools to access the programs and databases hosted on central IBM systems, and in client-server environments under Windows NT<sup>®</sup>.

“We wanted to migrate to Microsoft<sup>®</sup> Windows 2000. To do so, we had to develop master images containing the operating system and every office productivity application, as well as all the software packages used by UCB for before- and after-sales services,” explains Michel Laurent, Office Automation and Distributed Systems Manager for the DPI (Data Production Division) of UCB. “Of course, not every user needs all the host applications, which is why we also had to find host access providers who had flexible license management,” he adds.

**Combining Emulation with Application Development**

UCB had been using a previous-generation emulator for IBM 3270 terminals, not compatible with Windows 2000. Updating the computer network raised a continuity

issue: Should UCB keep an emulator with a proprietary macro language, over which they did not have full control? “The immediate answer was no. UCB had to obtain a fat client, capable of running on the Windows 2000 platform and capable of connecting our software packages via Visual Basic<sup>®</sup>,” notes Laurent.

WRQ Reflection<sup>®</sup> for IBM<sup>®</sup> met the UCB criteria for simple, secure access to central sites. In addition, WRQ<sup>®</sup> quickly arranged a flexible license agreement. From April to June 2001, a terminal emulation solution was developed that worked with Office XP and Windows 2000. It integrated the Windows 2000 network layer and Windows 2000 client, the host emulator, and office applications. At the start of 2002, the solution was deployed on 600 workstations at the Rueil-Malmaison head office.

**User-Friendly, Efficient and Simple**

For UCB, the migration of 1,750 workstations and servers in its computer network to Windows 2000 and XP was made possible by WRQ's Reflection for IBM.

“WRQ was present throughout the process. For example, their American development team created a macro especially for UCB, enabling us to print several 3270 screens on the same A4 page,” says Laurent. UCB is satisfied with their choice. “We had worries about the display speed of a fat client, but our worries were immediately addressed. Since the solution is so simple, our users were able to switch platforms within 24 hours. No training was necessary, except for a short explanation on how to display colors,” concludes Laurent.

UCB installed workstations for financial counselors in 24 regional offices in France between May and July 2002, and plans to extend WRQ emulation to its back-office site in Nantes by the end of 2002.

On-going investments in new technology, such as Windows 2000 and WRQ Reflection for IBM, help to position UCB as a leader in real-estate loan administration. The technology benefits both UCB and the businesses that place their trust in UCB.

### About WRQ

For 22 years, WRQ has developed high-quality software, backed by #1 rated customer support. WRQ software extends host applications, rapidly integrating them for new applications or new users. Four out of five Fortune 500 companies rely on WRQ daily. With over six million users in 51 countries, WRQ is one of the largest privately held software companies in the U.S. To learn more about Reflection and Verastream<sup>®</sup> products, visit [www.wrq.com/products](http://www.wrq.com/products).

### About UCB

UCB is a company in the BNP PARIBAS group. With a net income of 1.3 million euros and 77,000 employees working in 83 countries around the world, BNP PARIBAS ranks among the foremost financial institutions in France and Europe. For more information, visit the UCB web site at [www.ubc.fr](http://www.ubc.fr).



**Corporate Headquarters**  
1500 Dexter Avenue North  
Seattle, Washington 98109  
TEL 206 217 7500  
800 872 2829  
FAX 206 217 7515

**European Headquarters**  
The Netherlands  
TEL +31 70 375 1100  
FAX +31 70 356 1244

**Asia Pacific Headquarters**  
Singapore  
TEL +65 6336 3122  
FAX +65 6336 5233

**WRQ.COM**  
EMAIL [info@wrq.com](mailto:info@wrq.com)

For regional office information, visit [www.wrq.com](http://www.wrq.com).