



*“System availability has been dramatically increased for the business, yet we know we have the flexibility and scalability to increase further still when needed. The MIMIX High Availability solution enables us to switch our live machines on a regular basis. The business can regularly be running on a different physical system without the users being aware of the switch.”*

Nick Osborne, Senior IT Manager, Tradetteam

## Business Profile

Company name:  
Tradetteam (subsidiary of Exel)

Headquarters:  
UK

Industry:  
Supply chain logistics for  
beverage distribution

Employees:  
2,200

Business Environment:

- Tradetteam is part of Exel, a global leader in supply chain management with over 60,000 employees in 120 countries
- Tradetteam fields a fleet of 600 vehicles to ensure that around 1.2 million tons of drinks a year—the equivalent of eight million barrels of beer—are delivered from a range of brewers and suppliers to 25,000 distribution points throughout the UK
- The company’s mission is to deliver the required quantity of a variety of beverages on time to each outlet
- Tradetteam works hard to ensure that customers remain happy and loyal to the brands it distributes nationwide

Implementation Team:  
REAL Solutions

Vision Solutions Product:  
MIMIX® HA for i5/OS®

## Critical Issue

Tradetteam became aware that even minimal downtime could be substantial to its customers and, in turn, to their customers. Not willing to jeopardize the quality of service its customers had come to expect, Tradetteam looked for a High Availability solution.

## Results

- Confidence of having a proven HA solution in place.
- Demonstrates commitment to continuous service to existing and potential Tradetteam customers.
- Ability to switch live machines as needed and run on different systems without user impact or knowledge.
- Eliminated downtime for upgrades and maintenance.

## Technologies

- MIMIX® HA for i5/OS® from Vision Solutions
- IBM® System i
- ERP system from Geac that facilitates telesales, inventory, order processing and logistics operations
- EDI application originally developed by SAA/Geac
- INFOMANAGER data warehouse application

## Business Challenge

When Tradetteam looked hard at possible disaster scenarios that could bring down its IBM® System i and critical ERP and data warehouse applications, Tradetteam committed itself to finding and implementing a solution to ensure uninterrupted service to its customers in the UK.

Tradetteam’s parent company, Exel, appointed an independent System i consultant to completely evaluate its High Availability and Continuous Operations requirements. On conclusion of the study, the consultant recommended that Tradetteam enlist REAL Solutions to implement a solution using MIMIX® HA for i5/OS® from Vision Solutions.

MIMIX maintains an exact duplicate of a production system by capturing changes made to its data and programs and copying them to a standby system in real-time. It then monitors the primary system and, if it becomes unavailable, quickly and automatically switches users to the standby. MIMIX also provides the means to manually switch to the standby system in preparation for scheduled maintenance.



## Solution

The implementation project team consisted of a REAL Solutions project manager, a customer project manager and, as the systems were outsourced, a technician from the outsourcing company. The whole project management team reported into the ultimate project sponsor, Nick Osborne, Senior IT Manager for Tradeteam. The MIMIX solution was seamlessly integrated with Tradeteam's current IT infrastructure for optimum efficiency. "The project was a major success. The system was delivered as promised and has lived up to expectations," noted Osborne.

Tradeteam's outsourced computer operations are housed in two data centers, located in separate buildings within a campus environment. Here, Tradeteam's IBM® System i production and backup servers run mission-critical ERP, EDI, and data warehouse applications. The systems are extensive, supporting approximately 700 users using 500 devices.

The machines are kept synchronized using MIMIX and, as a matter of standard procedure, the roles of the systems are switched between live production and standby every three months. As they become necessary, operating system upgrades are made to the machine acting in the standby role, allowing the upgrades to be completed while operations continue uninterrupted on the production server. Once the upgrade is complete, MIMIX is used to replicate to the standby server all of the transactions performed on the production system during the upgrade process. Then, after switching the roles of the systems, the upgrade process is performed on the former production (now standby) machine. This server-alternating process is also used when performing preventative maintenance, such as applying PTFs, in order to maintain Tradeteam's standard of continuous operations.

With MIMIX, Tradeteam has reduced downtime for operating system upgrades and other major maintenance tasks to zero. The solution also enables Tradeteam's IT department to provide fresh options for increasing system availability workloads.

"The most obvious benefit of MIMIX is the increased confidence of having a proven High Availability solution in place. Now we are able to clearly demonstrate to existing and potential customers our commitment to continuous service," concluded Osborne.



17911 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 500, Irvine, CA 92614  
1-800-957-4511 ▪ 1-801-799-0300 ▪ [visionsolutions.com](http://visionsolutions.com)



◆ High Availability ◆ Disaster Recovery ◆ Systems and Data Management ◆