



# Automic supports ambitious growth plans by automating a modern ERP infrastructure

## Connecting with consumers

Like many retailers, Finnish retailer Stockmann recognizes it is not enough to just sell products. The most successful retailers are those that truly connect with consumers and continually improve the customer experience. IT plays a vital role in this process, unifying customer data, improving merchandising, and reducing integration costs. At the same time, IT is expected to retain the value of existing investments, stay competitive, improve security, make compliance easier, manage costs, and deliver business benefits.

The Stockmann IT landscape is complex and diverse, spanning more than 200 custom and packaged applications with hundreds of interfaces. Some of these systems have been providing vital business functions for over 20 years to 15,000 Stockmann employees, including running retail, merchandising, finance and HR processes. Lauri Hellsten, Integration Manager for Stockmann, explains the challenges associated with the Stockmann environment: "IT is absolutely essential to the day-to-day running of our business. Because of our long history, we juggle very old applications with brand-new ones, and are constantly transferring files between them. We needed to support the business growth the company anticipated, so decided to replace some of our legacy systems gradually and consolidate our applications onto a centralized management platform."

## BUSINESS CHALLENGES

- A network of legacy and new custom and packaged applications
- Wish to support business growth through replacement of legacy systems and consolidation of apps onto a single centralized management platform

## AUTOMIC SOLUTION

- Ability to build automated workflows across applications
- Integration of information flow between systems
- Certainty that critical retail processes are correctly sequenced and automatically executed

## CUSTOMER BENEFITS

- Improved information flows between IT apps and business systems
- Secure, modern managed file transfer
- Gain end-to-end visibility and reduced operating costs
- Future proof IT environment with scalable automation platform

*"The implementation of Automic Workload Automation has enabled Stockmann to pursue its strategic business goals without having to worry about whether the IT infrastructure can support this."*

**Lauri Hellsten**  
Integration Manager, Stockmann

Retail as well as ERP packaged applications were chosen as part of the consolidation platform, giving Stockmann the flexibility to quickly respond to changing market conditions and accommodate the expected growth rate. However, the retail system generates a significant amount of back-end workload each day and so automation of this was part of the design.

A recommendation by a retail implementation partner and current use by its Lindex division convinced Stockmann to use Automic Workload Automation to build automated workflows across the applications, as well as help with the complex task of integrating information flow between systems. Automic Workload Automation ensures critical retail processes are correctly sequenced and automatically executed.

### Automatic Workload Automation at work

Retail processing touches every part of the business, supporting Stockmann's 16 department stores across Finland, Russia and the Baltic countries. Throughout each day and every night batch processes are constantly updated with sales, inventory, pricing and other retail data ensuring Stockmann systems have the information needed to accurately stock stores and manage the supply chain. Hellsten comments: "File transfers across different systems could be very complex and require manual intervention. Support for old file transfer platforms was ending and we looked at alternatives. Also with a new service bus we had some issues with files transfers. In some cases messages were lost. Using integrated file transfer, we have been able to manage the movement of files between systems. It checks log files and instead of being limited on file sizes it allows us to safely move high volume files across all of our key platforms."

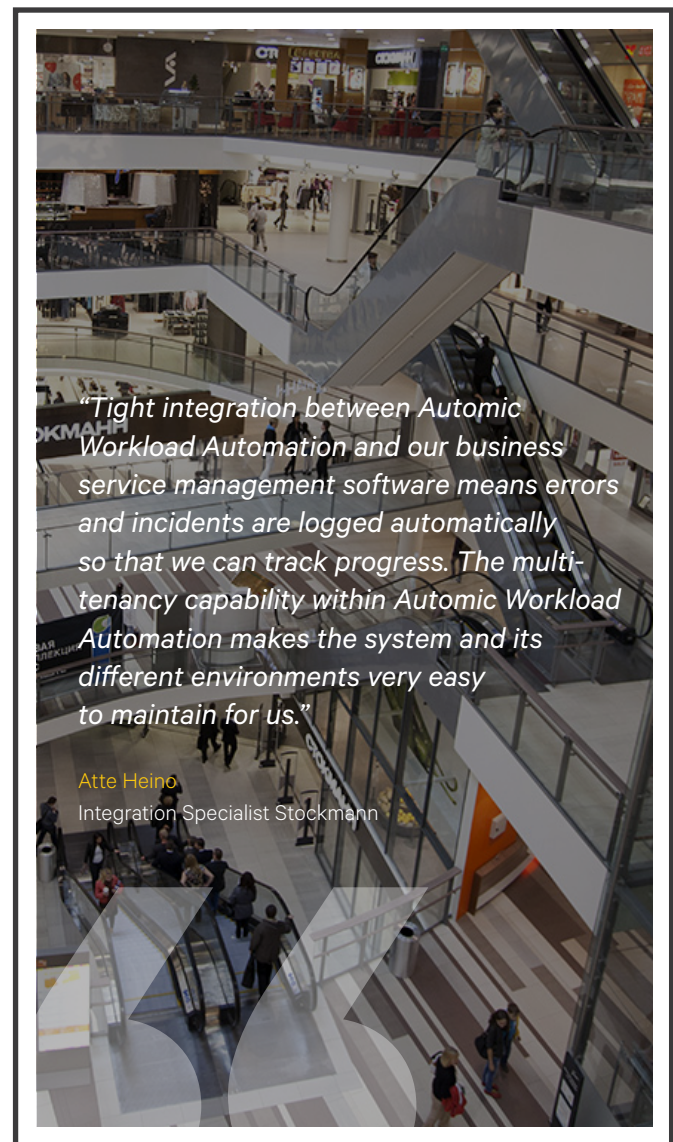
Stockmann operates a number of IT environments to support the stages of its development life cycle from unit testing through to production deployment. Automatic Workload Automation's multi-tenancy capability allows the retailer to automate workload in each separate environment using a single automation engine. In addition it is easy to promote process flows from one system onto the next with minimal change thanks to parameter overrides and maximum reusability with an object-based architecture.

Atte Heino, Integration Specialist at Stockmann, comments on the easy-of-use with Automatic Workload Automation: "We can configure and monitor jobs from a single console, so there is no need to move between consoles, making management much easier. We've implemented notification templates so that if a job fails not only can we immediately see what's wrong using the UI, but the monitoring team is also notified automatically so that they can start work to resolve the issue. Tight integration between Automatic Workload Automation and our business service management software means errors and incidents are logged automatically so that we can track progress."

### IT fit for the future

Key business applications, both ERP and non-ERP, are now integrated and automated using Automatic Workload Automation. Applications are still added to the centralized infrastructure on a regular basis, as old applications are replaced or are integrated into the new environment. IT housekeeping is dramatically simplified with centralized control over all business processing. Ultimately, Automatic Workload Automation will be at the heart of a centralized job scheduling platform which will give more control across the enterprise, including other Stockmann divisions. Hellsten concludes: "The implementation of new packaged applications and Automatic Workload Automation has enabled

Stockmann to pursue its strategic business goals without having to worry about whether the IT infrastructure can support this. One of our biggest challenges were system integration and information sharing as data accuracy is so key to the running of our business. Having introduced a robust SOA infrastructure, including a reliable service bus, together with Automatic Workload Automation, we are now at a point where most business-critical jobs are automated and run through this new environment. Also, it's our preferred way of managing file transfers because we know the job will be completed. Although the journey hasn't always been smooth, working with Automatic has been a great experience as they were there to help when we needed it."



For more information or product demonstration please visit [www.automic.com](http://www.automic.com)