

Case Study
Premix Concrete S.A –
Automating file conversion

Automating the process of changing and converting files between two systems to save time, effort and human error.







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Problem.

Premix Concrete is a SA business with a fleet of 30 concrete trucks, one cement tanker, three tipper trucks, a laboratory, and over 50 employees. The business also has three plants in Salisbury, Gawler and Lonsdale. As a result, they conduct many jobs a day.

Premix have two separate system one for Batching, Dispatching and another for Accounting Finance and Invoicing. They required the data for the invoices which was generated by the batching & dispatching system to be imported into the finance system.

However, the file formats between the two systems are incomplete. In order to prepare the data for the finance system, an employee previously had to manually change and edit the outputted data. This would involve them manually checking the outputted data row by row, taking up a substantial amount of time and effort.

Solved.

In order to replace this manual process, Exposé provided an application that automates the process of performing the formatting changes.

The solution was an application written in Python, that was given to Premix in the form of an executable file. The application takes in the two input files, the output files to get exported and a text file to track the invoice number. The file converter then runs, performs the changes and outputs a file with the converted formatted and filled in details. It additionally writes over the text file with the last invoice number used. This allowed for the process of tracking each invoice to be automated.

Business Benefits.

The application has numerous benefits to the business. Firstly, it replaces the need for manual effort. The application performs all the manual changes to the files, so there is no need for an employee to perform the previous manual changes.

In addition, the application has the benefit of saving the business time. Previously, the process of converting the file could take a Premix employee, hours. Now the process is done in a couple of minutes

