



## QK Cold Stores use PathFinder HA Module to streamline operations

### OVERVIEW

QK Cold Stores (Marston) Ltd provides cold storage & distribution solutions to customers in the manufacturing, food service and retail industries. Based at Marston, near Grantham, they have a total on site cold storage capacity of 157,000m<sup>3</sup>, with over 30,000 system controlled pallet locations.

QK routinely process in excess of 100 trucks, 2,500 pallets, & 2,500 EDI files per 24 hour period.

### CHALLENGE

With systems designed to support exacting supply chain management requirements, QK need to be able to provide their customers with access to real time stock information from anywhere in the world.

### BENEFITS

With the installation of the PathFinder High Availability module, QK Cold Stores will be able to make more efficient use of their servers. Rather than having a backup server sitting doing very little, except for replicating the live system, High Availability allows for multiple servers to be live simultaneously, working together, side-by-side.

Should any server need to be shut down – due to technical issues or routine maintenance – the remaining server(s) accept the load, and processing continues, until the issue is resolved.

This makes better use of the available hardware, and also removes any requirement to periodically test any backup server, as all PathFinder HA servers are in constant operation checking both the data queues and each other.

**QK & Orion have a long standing partnership going back to 2005. PathFinder just works. It is reliable, stable, & fast. QK can just forget it's there working away in the background whilst we get on with the operation.**

Darrell Swain,  
Business Development Manager,  
QK Cold Stores (Marston) Ltd.



## FULL CASE STUDY

The PathFinder system handles a variety of messages, including exchange of pre-receipt advice, receipt confirmation, orders, order despatch confirmation, product status, new product set up, & new delivery point set up.

The nature of the business is such that processing is continuous, 24/7, and – in most cases – just in time. As a result, any delay of data processing can have significant effects on the business.

PathFinder has handled all of these requirements since its installation, 12 years ago, and the system has just been updated to allow for quicker and more reliable processing. Previously, the site operated two PathFinder servers – one Live and one Backup – with automatic switching between the two as necessary, via a third party application, Lifekeeper.

## ABOUT PATHFINDER

PathFinder is a data exchange tool, which can be used anywhere where there is a requirement to move a electronic business document between separate computer systems in a controlled, monitored and reliable fashion.

Although most commonly used for Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), the exchange of business documents (orders, invoices, despatch notes etc) in pre-defined formats between separate trading partners using a variety of communications protocols, PathFinder can be used for document transformation and communication for any purpose. Examples include the loading of orders into databases, automatic extraction and delivery of attachments from emails, and the use of APIs to extract and process data from both internal and cloud-based systems.

**Companies upgrading to PathFinder from other solutions regularly tell us that PathFinder far surpasses the capabilities of their previously used solution.**



**“It is totally flexible, can translate to & from any file type, & can be tailored through programming to any customer requirement. The GUI for QK users is superb, & allows us to search any query for a definitive answer almost instantly.**

**The team at Orion are friendly & efficient, but also progressive, in that new versions & service packs are routinely rolled out to upgrade their products. Without PathFinder we simply wouldn't be able to process the activity we get through with the level of accuracy we achieve.”**

**Darrell Swain, Business Development Manager, QK Cold Stores (Marston) Ltd**

**For further information on PathFinder please visit our website at [www.orionltd.co.uk](http://www.orionltd.co.uk) or call us on 01572 771316**



**Linking your systems to each other and the world outside.** Orion Consulting offers a range of EDI products, services and training to make your business work smoother, faster and more efficiently.