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CONNECTION

ILOG Connection is produced by the Communication Department of ILOG S.A. in Gently, France

CUSTOMER NEWS

Severn Trent Systems Goes ILOG

[Crew scheduler meets day-to-day needs of field operations](#)

A growing international force in software solutions for the utility sector, Severn Trent Systems has developed a powerful new technician dispatching system with three of ILOG's leading software components.

Called Crew Scheduler, the new system is part of the Severn Trent Operational Resource Management (STORM) solution for day-to-day control of field operations. STORM can manage planned, unplanned and emergency work ranging from onetime customer service calls to extended multimillion-dollar projects.

Crew Scheduler enables STORM users to allocate the correct skills and number of workers to each job. By doing so, utility companies are able to cover more projects with the same number of people. The system also allows the companies to handle emergencies by pulling people off work sites in such a way as to lessen the impact on the progress of ongoing projects.

"We're using technology to reduce workforce costs for the gas companies," says David Teal, STS project manager for Crew Scheduler, in referring to the system's use by a gas company. "It can provide savings that can be passed on to consumers, helping to keep gas prices lower."

ILOG powers Crew Scheduler with the optimization components ILOG Solver and ILOG Scheduler, and the visualization component ILOG Views. The system uses the powerful constraint-programming technology of the optimization components in forming schedules that satisfy not only the needs of the projects and employees, but also the regulations governing the utility companies.

Once a schedule has been created, it is presented with an ILOG Views-based graphical user interface that allows planners to refine the schedule on-screen through point and click editing. Furthermore, the speed, scalability and reliability for which all three components are renowned make them unbeatable for generating in minutes schedules that used to take hours to assemble.

The STS group has achieved considerable success in Europe, Australia and the United States, by providing software products and services for managing resources in the oil, water, electric and natural gas industries. Today STS solutions manage the accounts of more than 20 million households and businesses around the world.



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CPLEX Helps Safeguard Skies

[Component vastly improves hit-to-kill missile defense system](#)

[Dynetics Inc.](#) has greatly improved the effectiveness of a U.S. anti-ballistic missile system with a targeting reduction program based on CPLEX, ILOG's linear-based optimization engine.

"CPLEX give THAAD," says Neil Sutphin, Dynetics Inc., "a greater fighting advantage in defending U.S. forces and assets throughout the world."

The binary integer program (BIP) is used in the [Theater High Altitude Area Defense \(THAAD\)](#) system, which is designed to destroy incoming missiles like those used by IRAQ in the Gulf War.

The system works by locating and tracking theater ballistic missiles (TBMs) with radar. Once the TBMs are in range, THAAD launches defensive missiles to intercept and destroy the targets.

In THAAD's ongoing development program, BIP was introduced to more accurately guide the missiles by reducing the target zone. BIP reduces the number of decision variables to optimize the intercept patterns of the missiles by processing constraints concerning missile characteristics and the region being defended.

The CPLEX approach tries to determine a minimum resource search solution. If one is found, uncommitted resources, including radar and missiles, are applied to enlarge the coverage of the target zone. If, however, a solution cannot be found, the system searches for solutions that best apply resources in order to maximize their coverage.

CPLEX was chosen for its speed and versatility. With it, THAAD only needs 65% of its radar resources to ensure total defense. Before BIP's introduction, the defense system could not be trusted to protect assets even with all of its radar dedicated to searching.

CPLEX takes hit-to-kill anti-ballistic defense from concept to reality.



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