

# jBASE MIGRATION

SUCCESS STORY



## Leading UK Transportation Provider Chooses jBASE



WE RECENTLY SAT DOWN  
WITH **JASON WESTWOOD**,  
HEAD OF IT, AND  
**GARETH ARMSTRONG**, IT  
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER,  
AT CLARKE TRANSPORT TO  
DISCUSS THEIR DECISION TO  
MOVE TO JBASE.



### Introduction

Since 1986, Clarke Transport, a leading multi-service transport organization based in Birmingham, England, has been running its core business application on a Pick database. Its transport management system is at the heart of its business. However, after hiring a series of new developers, Clarke Transport decided to move to jBASE for its native architecture which is easier for programmers without MultiValue knowledge to master. We sat down with Jason Westwood, Head of IT, and Gareth Armstrong, IT Development Manager, at Clarke Transport to find out more about their decision to move to jBASE.

### Tell me about Clarke Transport. What is it that you do?

Jason: Clarke Transport is regional provider of delivery, warehousing, and transportation solutions. We specialize in transporting hazardous freight, such as chemicals and paint. We're a family-run organization, founded in 1933 as the first direct road service between the industrial Midlands and Scotland. We employ over 500 people across seven sites in the UK.

### How do you use jBASE today?

Gareth: jBASE is absolutely at the core of everything we do at Clarke. Our transport management system pretty much runs our entire business. All our jobs, consignments, routing, scanning, and invoicing is handled through that system, which now runs on jBASE. We also have external websites that connect to jBASE so our customers can enter jobs themselves. Without our transport management system, we wouldn't have a business.

### Why did you choose to move to jBASE?

Jason: Clarke had been running our transport management system on Pick for 30 years—way before our time. But we were looking for a solution that was on the leading edge, something that would allow us to be more forward-looking with our development.

We were also having lots of stability issues with our Pick system. We were experiencing crashes every other month, which for a system as critical as ours, was not acceptable. Our trucks are operating 24-hours a day, so even a minor disruption to our systems can be a significant disruption to the business. Customers aren't going to want to use your service if they can't rely on you. You can't run a business like that, especially when you're trying to grow in the industry.

## What has your experience been using or since moving to jBASE?

Gareth: The biggest benefits with Zumasys and jBASE are stability and flexibility. The MultiValue community is very small, particularly in the UK. One of the key advantages of Zumasys is that we can leverage its large support team without having to go through a middleman to diagnose issues. Zumasys provides the 24-hour, globally available coverage we need to compete in our industry. With Zumasys, we can phone in and speak directly to someone who can help us solve our problem immediately.

Jason: We've completely gotten rid of the stability and crashing problems we had before. With jBASE we also get the full benefits of virtualization, including real disaster recovery. Before, we were backing up from a physical AIX server to tape at a remote location. Our jBASE solution now runs on Windows Server using Hyper-V virtualization. jBASE automatically replicates data to our remote site, so in the event of a failure, we can just spin up the virtual server on the other side and away we go.

## How does jBASE RESTful services help you recruit development talent?

Gareth: Our Pick developers were starting to reach retirement age, and we were having trouble finding new programmers. With jBASE, we can attract the next generation of developers because they can come in and use jBASE natively using RESTful services. We can hire a web developer who doesn't know anything about MultiValue, and as long as we can give them the interfaces to talk to, they can create a website that talks to jBASE. jBASE gives us the ability to talk to modern technology using RESTful services and various other connecting modules within jBASE. This dramatically increases our throughput and speeds up development time. Now we can do a lot more web integration that, while possible to do with our older version of Pick, was a lot slower and more expensive.

For example, our order-booking website that talks to our MultiValue database was previously very difficult to develop. Now with jBASE and RESTful API services, web developers can easily make changes and enhancements. They can spend less time trying to navigate the system and more time creating fast, responsive websites, which is what our customers want. Development goes a lot faster and is a whole lot more affordable.

## The bottom line

When instability, downtime and developer shortages were affecting its most critical business functions, Clarke Transport knew it needed to make a change and jBASE was the right answer. With trucks transporting hazardous freight at all hours of the day, it is crucial to have uptime 24/7/365. Zumasys' large and experienced MultiValue support team has given Clarke Transport the reliability they need to diagnose and resolve issues in a timely manner, as well as the ability to replicate their data offsite for disaster recovery.

Learn More at [www.jBASE.com](http://www.jBASE.com)

