

# Interview with Mayer Electric

Mayer Electric is one of the USA's largest and most rapidly expanding distributors of electrical supplies. A family run business founded in 1930 and headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, Mayer employs over 1,000 people and has annual sales of over \$650 million.

Mayer is currently running ERP 8.12, Oracle 10g database. The hardware platform is IBM P570 series with user connections using Citrix.

ARCTOOLS is the leading purge and archive solution for JD Edwards EnterpriseOne & World.

ARCTOOLS delivers a set of standard rules to enable quick and efficient purging and archiving. These rules ensure that data integrity is protected and can also easily incorporate client-specific configurations and customisations.

Over two hundred and twenty customers on six continents have already chosen ARCTOOLS.

**Barry Carden, VP & CIO, Mayer Electric talks about his upgrade experience and how ARCTOOLS purging and archiving software reduced Mayer Electric's database by 20% in just 28 hours.**

## What is Mayer Electric's history with JD Edwards?

From our first card-based computer system introduced in 1967, strategic use of technology has always been part of the culture at Mayer. Technology is one of our key competitive weapons and allows us to continuously deliver the outstanding customer service for which we are known.

At Mayer we like to take a proactive approach to technology, so in the late 1990s, when the IT department began to confront Y2K issues, we saw it as an opportunity not only to fix potential problems caused by the date fields in the legacy systems, but also as the right time to invest in an ERP that would improve the business going forward.

And so our JD Edwards journey began in 1999 when we replaced our legacy system with JDE OneWorld 7.33, subsequently upgrading to Xe in November 2001, and 8.12 in June 2008. Our 1,000 JDE users employ the finance and distribution modules to lower transaction costs and to ensure that we can deliver any one of our 40,000 inventory items overnight to customers at our 60 plus branches in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

## Tell us about your decision to upgrade from Xe to 8.12?

JDE Xe served us well over the years and helped us to scale the company gracefully; in 2004 we took over another company which added 13 branches to our existing 40 plus locations.

However, as time went on, we realised that the increased functionality of 8.12 (expanded EDI, CRM, sales force automation and customer self-service) would greatly enhance our business.

## Why did you purge and archive data before the upgrade?

Our initial estimates indicated that the process of converting Xe data to 8.12 would take over two and half weeks. Needless to say, this was never going to be an option for us.

We started looking at ways to cut the data conversion time to a minimum and reducing the amount of data to be converted seemed like a really efficient way of speeding up the process.

In the end, we managed to convert all our data in just thirty-six hours and I can honestly say that the ARCTOOLS solution played a key role in helping us achieve our goal.

## Did you consider developing a purging and archiving tool in-house

Well, as you know, purging and archiving data in JD Edwards is not straightforward. It requires a delicate balancing act between, on the one hand, purging and archiving as much data as possible, while on the other hand, protecting referential integrity. After undertaking a cost/benefit analysis and reviewing the ROI offered by ARCTOOLS, we very quickly realised that it just didn't make financial sense to build rather than buy.

**ARCTOOLS™**  
Archive Integrity for JD Edwards



### Why did you choose ARCTOOLS?

Firstly, it was fast. With ARCTOOLS, we knew that the purging and archiving process would be quick and efficient.

Secondly, something we really liked about ARCTOOLS was the fact that it did not slow down our IT systems. This meant that we were able to run purge and archiving jobs without impacting the performance of our production database and without disrupting our end users.

Finally, it seemed like these guys were “a safe pair of hands”. Over the past number of years we had heard of ARCTOOLS through Quest and from going to Collaborate. We also knew that the software had been developed in collaboration with JD Edwards and that it had been successfully implemented by over two hundred and twenty JD Edwards clients worldwide.

### How long did the purging and archiving project take?

From researching a solution to go-live, the whole project took three months. Total time to actually purge and archive the data was just twenty-eight hours.

One thing that really helped us gain a lot of time was the fact that during our “proof of concept” we had already validated a lot of our purging and archiving rules. The “proof of concept” also meant that, by the time we actually bought the product, our users and data owners were already fairly comfortable with us purging and archiving their data.

### How did ARCTOOLS perform?

In fact, the software surpassed our expectations. The production platform outperformed the test environment and it took us just twenty-eight hours to reduce our database by 20%.

### What advice would you give companies planning a purging and archiving project?

The first point is, this is a business project and not just a technical one. Business stakeholders and users from all areas of the business need to be involved right from the start. Users are very protective of “their” data and need lots of reassurance when it comes to purging and archiving. In our case, this meant that while our DBA, Allen Rowan, led the project, our COO and CFO were also part of the project team. Their leadership in communicating to their respective teams was invaluable.

The second point, and it seems almost too obvious to mention, is the importance of extensively testing before purging any data. ARCTOOLS “proof mode” functionality really helped us with this as we always knew precisely what data was going to be purged and archived before actually running the job.

The third point is that it can be worthwhile getting some expert help. While ARCTOOLS is very easy to use and requires very little hand-holding to implement, we decided to invest in some consultancy services from Whitehouse Consultants. To our mind this was money well spent. These guys developed the software along with Dave Shea from DCSoftware, and they really added a lot of value - there is just about nothing related to purging and archiving that they haven't already seen.

Finally, the last point is, don't wait until your back is up against the wall to start purging and archiving your data. Be proactive!

### What about purging and archiving in the future?

With ARCTOOLS we can automate purging and archiving. This functionality allows us to proactively manage application data growth and means that our data levels will stay at optimal levels in the future.

### Any final thoughts for our readers?

Purging and archiving often gets pushed down the to-do list. This is a mistake! Remember, keeping your data at optimal levels saves the company money. By reducing your data load, you save money on hardware, your system will perform better and your IT team will spend less time backing-up and maintaining the database and more time on higher value-added tasks. With a tool like ARCTOOLS, purging and archiving really is a quick win. Now, isn't it time you moved that purge and archive project up your to-do list....

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**ORACLE®** **Platinum  
Partner**

I can honestly say that the ARCTOOLS solution played a key role in helping us achieve our goal.

Barry Carden  
VP & CIO, Mayer Electric

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