

## SLIB RELIES ON ARCAD-SKIPPER TO MANAGE MULTIPLE VERSIONS OF ITS FINANCIAL SOFTWARE ■■■

SLIB uses ARCAD-Skipper for all of its multiplatform development while adopting IBM's new development environment based on Eclipse.



### SLIB financial software vendor

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

“SLIB chose ARCAD-Skipper in 1998. While the first version of the product only handled a development center dedicated to a single product for a single client, ARCAD Software transformed it to adapt it to our situation, with multiple versions of products transferred to production at various times for a variety of clients. SLIB can now internally manage 100 to 200 combinations of software versions in its application.”

Philippe Cognet,  
General Director

**SLIB is a financial software vendor specializing in the fields of stocks and the stock market. Their modular software range is made available to users in ASP mode and hosted at Natexis Banques Populaires' IT processing centers. SLIB has been a wholly-owned subsidiary of Natexis for 10 years.**

Created in 1998 on the Lyon stock market, SLIB quickly expanded its activities on the French and then European markets. On Euronext outside of Paris, SLIB has clients in Brussels, Amsterdam, and Lisbon. In parallel, since SLIB is very well positioned on the LCH.Clearnet compensation market, the company is targeting coverage of the British segment of this market. The signing of the first client in the United Kingdom led to the creation of a subsidiary in the UK. The heart of SLIB's strategy is assisting its clients in their international deployment: its products adapt to local constraints and procedures, and are available in several languages.

With 100 associates and 17 million Euros in turnover, SLIB is a segment leader in France and Portugal, and a contender in Belgium and the Netherlands. Current activity is 20% to 25% international.

### ■ ARCAD-Skipper, A Tool for Managing Growing Complexity

As a loyal user of IBM's midrange servers since the System 38 and the IBM i, SLIB now has France's largest i5s: Two i595 servers that handle 80 million market order executions per year. Half of the average 4 to 6 billion Euros in orders handled each day by the Paris Exchange goes through SLIB software.



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## CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

With stakes this high, software reliability and robustness are absolutely essential—SLIB cannot put a foot wrong.

Each client has an independent operating environment with a customized selection of applications from the SLIB catalog. Software undergoes change because of major development related to financial sector reforms, which come out every few years. Clients' specific versions are modified based on their needs and/or changes in the SLIB product line. To handle this, the company needed a tool to manage multiple software versions, make sure the versions were coherent, and respond to security concerns. In particular, developers were faced with the problem of simultaneous modification of the same programs. They also needed to create cross references.

**“SLIB chose ARCAD-Skipper in 1998,”** explains Philippe Cognet, General Director of SLIB. **“While the first version of the product only handled a development center dedicated to a single product for a single client, ARCAD Software transformed it to adapt it to our situation, with multiple versions of products transferred to production at various times for a variety of clients. SLIB can now internally manage 100 to 200 combinations of software versions in its application.”** ARCAD also overhauled SLIB's version management system to take SLIB's work mode into account: creation of numerous versions, varying life cycles, and selective deployment.

### ■ Assisting Technological Developments

Transforming IBM i green screens into Windows-type graphics screens had become necessary for SLIB, especially to satisfy its new clients. The client-server solution would not work due to deployment problems in ASP mode on the client's end. “Revamping” tools were not an effective solution either, given the large number of software versions and options in use.

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Philippe Cognet

So SLIB decided to transfer the transactional activity to Java, relying on application servers and implementing a light client using HTML and JavaScript. For the development environment, the firm chose the Eclipse IDE. In 2005, SLIB adopted IBM's WebSphere Development Studio Client (WDS), based on Eclipse. The vendor upgraded from Version 5 to Version 6, which is more powerful and more stable.

ARCAD Software played a part in this evolution with its plug-in, which is based on Eclipse. SLIB also adopted Eclipse for its RPG development. IDE commonality at all levels is ensured, which facilitates mastery of new software development. Further, SLIB has used the facilities provided by Eclipse to add new functions to its applications. However, this change in development tools was implemented while retaining all the work already performed on ARCAD-Skipper in the ARCAD-Open Repository. Only the interface changed.

The base ARCAD-Skipper version is installed on the Power i. The ARCAD plug-in is installed on the client's workstation, which has now become a graphical workstation. SLIB is currently in a mixed phase. RPG versions on the Power i and versions on new technologies work together, since three-quarters of programs are batch or continuous batch programs still in RPG, and a

quarter are transactional programs. The transformation of the 1500 DSP to graphical mode (for 500 transactions) is a major project, with a workload of approximately 2500-3000 man-days, of which 1000 days have already been invested.

### ■ ARCAD and SLIB, A Mutually Beneficial Partnership

ARCAD-Skipper started out as a very general tool, but it can now handle any number of special cases, such as the ASP mode. SLIB's Philippe Cognet adds, **“To manage the standard development environment and compatibility with Eclipse, ARCAD-Skipper is an essential part of the value and development chain. Today we are working like equipment suppliers, as in the automotive industry. We work on just-in-time delivery. Just as no one makes car shocks out of wood, we must use the most modern technologies. This is also true for our suppliers. This is why we appreciate the fact that ARCAD keeps ahead with developments in Eclipse.”** ■

### MAIN FEATURES ARCAD IMPLEMENTED

**ARCAD-Skipper is a multi-platform configuration and version management toolset, centered on the IBM I platform. It provides both organizational methodologies for IT services, and all the automation processes required for trouble-free application maintenance.**

