



Client **SUCCESS**

Devanlay, the exclusive worldwide licensee for Lacoste apparel, expands abroad with Cegid

Jean-François Bader, Organization and Information Systems Director, Devanlay



Devanlay, the worldwide licensee for the apparel brand that carry's the famous crocodile, has selected Cegid's retail management solutions to manage its 250 European and US stores.

The Lacoste product line includes a wide selection of clothing, footwear, perfume, leather goods, glasses, and even household items. The company sells two items per second across 4 continents. «We have branches in 112 countries and more than 1,000 stores and 2,000 concessions in department and sportswear stores,» says Jean-François Bader, Organization and Information Systems Director, Devanlay.

System required to gain visibility across Europe

In Europe, the Lacoste network is run by Devanlay and has a hundred stores under its own brand, in six countries (UK, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Portugal), and fifty franchises in France. «The majority of these stores were equipped with basic point of sale terminals and each country had different retail management systems. As a result, there was often several weeks delay to obtain consolidated reports for each location. We had very little visibility about what was happening in other countries,» says Bader.

Because each country had different systems, there was no consolidated view of the group's performance and Devanlay was unable to manage the company's international distribution network. As a result of this, Devanlay wanted to invest in a new retail system in order to gain visibility across Europe. «There was a need for an expert, high-performance retail management system that could support us as we developed our international business,» continues Bader.





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Conquering the USA

After an in-house audit to identify their requirements, Devanlay's IT department created a specification document and approached various software vendors. «We contacted a number of retail software providers in the market place, but in the final stages of the process, very few were capable of meeting our specific requirements. We needed a partner that could handle both franchises and branch stores, and capable of supporting our international organisation. In other words, offer a solution in all the languages necessary, as well as adapting to country-specific regulations and local business practices. As 50 of our own stores are in the US, we needed an international provider with the ability to support our US network. We selected Cegid because they are committed to supporting us in our current and future markets and they didn't hesitate to open an office in New York to help support and manage our expanding US operation,» comments Bader.

Rapid implementation

After the first deployment in Switzerland followed by several stores in France, the group asked Cegid and its local partner, BO Technology, to rapidly install the application across the United States. «We wanted to install the software during the quiet period of the season. In order to do this, at least two stores a week had to be equipped with the software. It was an ambitious task because we had problems synchronizing databases and a lot of work was involved in localizing the software, especially tax management and adapting the point of sale terminals,» explains Bader.

Web Access technology

Today, Cegid's retail solutions manage Devanlay's entire retail chain, from head office to store, for more than 250 franchise and owned stores. All of the European shops already benefit from Cegid's Web Access technology, which establishes a real-time link between the headquarters and the stores. The US stores will benefit from the web client mode in the spring. «The headquarters have the ability to monitor all sales in real time. In Europe, we can now analyze best and worst sellers very quickly and replenish each store without delay. With Cegid's solution, we can share our stock with our European network and will always have items available to send where they're needed.»

Centralized operations management for all stores has already enabled the group to be much more reactive and reduce the level of lost sales. «We finally have a handle on price changes, especially during promotional periods. Using the Web Access technology, we can update information on the entire network with just a few clicks, as well as install new versions of the software or even new point-of-sale terminals. The solution also enables us to optimize promotional operations and effectively manages our customer loyalty programs across Europe,» concludes Bader.

Cegid's retail management software solutions and services are proven to improve productivity, performance and profitability of speciality retailers. Over 1,000 retailers and 20,000 stores in more than 64 countries are currently using Cegid's retail management solutions to optimize their retail operation and aid decision making at the head office and in store.