

◀ **How Groupe Picard
protected its
operational core
by modernizing
its ERP system** / >

Groupe Picard.

Progressive, chaos-free ERP modernization ensures continuity of operations management



«Over the last few years, we have been very concerned about the end of life of our current system. We were quickly won over by the professionalism of Openmind, who were able to adapt to our reality and genuine business needs. From the beginning, their team listened attentively to create a software tailored to our specific context, rather than offering a pre-packaged solution that would require us to adjust all our processes. »

— Karine Picard, VP Finances and IT Manager

Groupe Picard

DISTRIBUTOR OF STEEL PRODUCTS,
ALUMINUM AND OTHER METALS

3 Quebec locations

371,000 sq. ft. of indoor storage space

629 000 sq. ft. of outdoor storage space

315 employees

founded in 2000

annual revenue: \$300 M



By modernizing its ERP software, Groupe Picard secures its core operations and ensures the longevity of its management platform.

Although their ERP system is reliable and robust, it represents a considerable risk to the company's operations. The system's outdated language and lack of reference documentation, coupled with dependence on a single resource for development and technical support, could compel Groupe Picard to halt the development of their ERP system, rendering it obsolete in the face of newer technologies.

An ERP system frozen in time would have a direct impact on sales, purchasing, accounting, operations, logistics and transportation departments. The programmer analyst in charge possesses comprehensive knowledge of the software and its architecture. This monopoly of knowledge, along with limited documentation, represents a substantial obstacle to hiring and training qualified employees to ensure continued software operations in the event of the programmer analyst's absence. Supporting the application in its original form also requires a steep learning curve before achieving full operational and autonomous capability.



Keeping a proven and well-established process

Accustomed to the system that has been operating for several years, users quickly navigate through the application and its complex structure exclusively with the use of their keyboards.

A truly valuable investment

Team members have fully acquired the computerized processes, options, menus and commands of the original version. The software employs a standardized nomenclature and offers multiple keyboard shortcuts.

The new version of the software retains the same functionality and nomenclature as its predecessor, but features a modern, user-friendly interface. Options are more straightforward, and the new structure has been optimized for use on both mobile and tablet devices. User experience is significantly improved, navigation is more intuitive, and training new employees is simplified.

Furthermore, the language used and the programming are modern and scalable, providing the company access to a large pool of developers. The language and programming of the modernized version can also communicate more easily with external systems, while remaining compatible with mobile devices.

With each delivered iteration of the project, Groupe Picard receives technical support from Openmind Technologies' experienced team, as well as detailed documentation of the source code, specifications, and quality assurance processes.

Modernization of their ERP software offers future-proofing and optimization for all Groupe Picard systems, enabling them to maintain their competitive edge and maximize their technological investment.



An ERP system redesigned to meet future needs

With the step-by-step modernization of its ERP application, the company benefits from a system designed in a more common and up-to-date language.



From DOS to the present

For over 20 years, Groupe Picard has actively developed and used their software to manage their operations. Recoding the application using .NET and JavaScript significantly enhances user interface and experience while retaining the same features as the original version. Furthermore, the modernization project provides the company with the flexibility to add more complex requests and automations to the system according to how their operations evolve, and the requirements of their users. The new system will also allow for the integration of artificial intelligence and to benefit from its many advances, including business intelligence.



Groupe Picard – industry leader in steel distribution.

The ERP application at the heart of Groupe Picard's operations will evolve with the company's growth and will contribute to maintain their position as a leader in the steel and other metals distribution industry throughout the province of Quebec.



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