

CASE STUDY

Milwaukee Electric Tool outsources administration of IBM infrastructure and cuts admin costs by more than 30%



Challenge

Milwaukee Electric Tool's leadership team wanted to outsource some of their IT so they could shift their focus to more strategic initiatives. They started by looking for a vendor qualified to help them with their Lotus Notes and IBM System i applications.

Selection Criteria

- IBM technical expertise
- Customer references supporting IBM i competency
- Data center quality in case they decide to move to an IBM cloud

Platform

IBM i

Results

Connectria's initial engagement provided remote support of Milwaukee Electric Tool's Lotus Notes environment, but they have since expanded to include full remote support responsibilities for their entire System i environment. Admin costs are now a third of what they were, and the company has invested those savings in hiring IT staff with competencies in new technologies.

Milwaukee Electric Tool is an industry leading manufacturer and marketer of heavy duty power tools, hand tools and accessories, with a focus on professional users globally. Supporting the IT needs of its 1,000 employees all over the world is a daunting task, particularly in a dynamic, evolving IT landscape. Find out why Milwaukee Electric Tool chose Connectria to help support their IT operations and why they're glad they did.

The Challenge

With headquarters in Brookfield, Wisconsin, 1,000 global employees, two manufacturing facilities in the U.S., a shared manufacturing facility with TTI in China, a major distribution center in Mississippi and offices around the world, Milwaukee Electric Tool places high demands upon its IT department to deliver on key objectives and strategies.

So when a new IT leadership team was put in place, they had to take a hard look at its operations and make some tough technology decisions regarding its future. For years, Milwaukee Electric Tool was an "IBM shop," running all its applications on the IBM System i platform. This included Lotus Notes as their primary email application platform, which was supporting approximately 800 users.

The new leadership team decided to divest of certain technologies, platforms or services so they could shift their focus to more strategic outcomes. Milwaukee Electric Tool determined Lotus Notes and certain IBM System i applications as areas where it made sense for them to remove their internal focus and trust a 3rd party to manage it, allowing them to focus on things that were more pertinent to their success.

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The Solution

Milwaukee Electric Tool's search for a remote service provider began with online research that identified several candidates, including Connectria. They evaluated vendors across key criteria:

- Technical competency
- Customer References
- The quality of the data center since hosting was viewed as a possible requirement in the future.

Given its extensive experience providing remote and hosted managed services on IBM Lotus and System i technologies, Connectria quickly emerged as the frontrunner.

After several discussions and a visit to meet the Connectria team, Milwaukee Electric Tool had a sense that Connectria was the right fit. According to Eric Hanson, Milwaukee Electric Tool's Director of IT Services, "We felt Connectria was an organization we could trust. It really came down to one thing that made our decision easy...their integrity. And when we met the rest of the team in St. Louis, we could see that integrity permeated across the organization. Connectria really won us over early in the process. They gave us a level of trust that's hard to find in a partner. That sealed the deal and we've not been disappointed."

Connectria's initial engagement provided remote support of Milwaukee Electric Tool's Lotus Notes environment. Viewed originally as a trial, Milwaukee Electric Tool has since expanded Connectria's scope to include full remote support responsibilities for their entire System i environment, with Connectria now managing hardware across several different System i LPARs (Logical Partitions), as well as the Lotus Notes platform.

As Eric Hanson attests, Connectria has delivered: "In terms of our experience, Connectria provides us expert guidance. They've uncovered areas of opportunity and helped us streamline and automate some of our operations. Connectria's influence has even had a compound effect on other things that we do here unrelated to their services. They've really contributed to the improvement of our overall processes."

"Connectria has exceeded our expectations. Their expert remote management has helped us streamline and automate our processes, delivering tangible savings. Since Connectria has partnered with us, our relevant admin costs are a third of what they were."

Eric Hanson
Director of IT Services

Managed Technologies:

- IBM Lotus Remote Administration
- IBM System i Remote Administration

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The Results

Connectria's support has also been top-notch. When there is a problem, Milwaukee Electric Tool values the fact that anyone on their staff can pick up the phone and expect a quick response. "What's truly unique and appreciated is that we're going to get someone who's sincere and wants to help make things better rather than someone who assumes a defensive posture. From my perspective, that's all you can ask for...and it's because of that we've had a very positive experience."

Hanson further added, "We anticipated several results in Choosing Connectria. First, we expected to lower costs of administration, which we achieved. Additionally, we had hoped to refocus our attention on more strategic objectives and outcomes, which we also accomplished. As a result, our relevant admin costs are a third of what they were before and we've been able to invest those savings into hiring IT staff with competencies in the new technologies we've adopted. This has been key to our success. Connectria has certainly exceeded our expectations."



About Milwaukee Electric Tool

Milwaukee Electric Tool Corp., a subsidiary of Techtronic Industries Co. Ltd. (TTI), is an industry leading manufacturer and marketer of heavy-duty, electric power tools, hand tools and accessories for professional users worldwide. Since its founding in 1924, Milwaukee Electric Tool has focused on a single vision: To produce the best heavy-duty power tools and accessories available to the professional user. Today, the Milwaukee Electric Tool name stands for the highest quality, durable and reliable professional tools money can buy.

For more information visit milwaukeetool.com

About Connectria

From Fortune 100 enterprises to medium and small businesses, Connectria provides managed cloud, managed services, and compliant cloud security solutions to more than 1,000 global customers. Working as an extension of each customer's IT team, we deliver technology-agnostic solutions consistently, with depth and breadth of engineering expertise, scalable solutions, and speed to market. Our "No Jerks Allowed®" philosophy includes flexible terms, straight-forward pricing, and custom solutions. With a culture based on integrity and an unwavering employee commitment to treating every customer with a relentless focus on satisfaction, it's easy to do business with Connectria.



Connect with us today

Talk to one of our IT advisors by calling **800.781.7820** or reaching out to us by email: sales@connectria.com.

