CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

Platinum for Windows by Best

CUSTOMER

Citizen Potawatomi Nation

www.potawatomi.org

CORPORATE PROFILE

Type of Organization
Indian tribe

Number of Locations
10

Number of Employees
530

Size
$14 million in federal contracts

SYSTEM PROFILE

Computer System
Microsoft Windows NT
Users on system: 150

**Platinum for Windows by Best
Modules in Operation**
• Abra Payroll
• Accounts Payable
• Accounts Receivable
• Bank Book
• Inventory
• Premier Inter-Company
• Premier Ledger
• Purchase Order

Third-Party Modules
• Fusion 2000 and Cyber Imports
  from MIK & Associates
• MICR and Laser Signature from ISS
• Unitime from Unitime Systems, Inc.

Potawatomi Nation Powers Up with Platinum for Windows

Potawatomis have been an influential Indian tribe for centuries. Historically they controlled about 30 million acres of land in the Great Lakes area. Woodrow Wilson Crumbo, whose murals grace the walls of the Department of the Interior Building in Washington, D.C., is one of the best-known tribal members.

Today the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is an important economic and cultural presence in central Oklahoma. Its 15 enterprises include a bingo hall, bowling center, two smoke shops, grocery store, convenience store, golf course, museum with gift shop, radio station, Internet service provider, fleet leasing company and food service. A multitude of federal programs in the Nation's homeland provide further employment opportunities.

Retiring the Old System

The nearly 100 financial entities that make up the Potawatomi Nation engage in countless transactions with one another every day. The daycare center may take its students to visit the bowling alley, or the youth program may charge gas and food at the convenience store. These interactions must be accounted for and reconciled — a very time-consuming endeavor. In 1996 the Nation decided that automation was a logical answer, and searched for an accounting application with strong inter-organizational capabilities to replace their antiquated fund accounting package.

An Enterprise Wide Solution

Susan Blair, director of enterprise finance at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation,

CHALLENGE	SOLUTION	RESULTS
Obtain an automated business solution that provides advanced inter-organizational capabilities to manage 100 financial entities and $14 million in federal contracts.	Platinum for Windows financial modules.	Streamlined, inter-company integration; Centralized financial records; Accurate accounting and improved collections; Cut payroll processing from 5 days to 2; Added 250 employees without increase in payroll workload.

reviewed many software options, then helped make the decision to go with Platinum for Windows by Best (PFW). "We set up a fully integrated system based on Platinum for Windows that incorporates many different applications and modules," she explains. "We started out just using PFW for the enterprise side of the house. It worked so nicely that after two years we moved over all our federal programs as well. Now financial records for the entire Nation are all on PFW."

Blair set up each of the various tribal enterprises as separate companies under PFW. That way she can close out some at the end of each year, if necessary, or keep them running on an ongoing basis. Each federal program is a company too, with "due to" and "due from" accounts easily tracked like standard accounts payable and receivables.

"We're very pleased with Platinum for Windows," says Blair. "The Accounts Receivable module alone has saved us a tremendous amount of work. It keeps all our accounts straight, and allows us to spot past-due balances quickly so we can take speedy action."

A sophisticated mix of modules comprises the Potawatomi Nation's PFW system. Two of the tribe's locations use Fusion 2000, a point-of-sale application from MIK & Associates that interfaces directly to

PFW. MICR and Laser Signature from ISS cuts checks automatically within PFW. Cyber Imports, another MIK module, pulls information on the Nation's self-insurance transactions to PFW, where it is delivered straight into the Bank Book module — all without records having to be re-keyed.

Remarkable efficiencies have come from the integrated Abra Payroll module. The Abra Payroll module provides many-tiered entry processing and secure delivery of sensitive payroll information. When the Nation opened a grocery story in May and hired 250 new employees, the tribe's payroll nearly doubled. Yet Abra Payroll, using data collected from the grocery, bingo hall and bowling center, with the Unitime timeclock module and PFW, handled the increase without adding a single hour to the payroll manager's workload. According to Blair, Abra Payroll, which is another Best Software product, and Unitime timeclock from Unitime Systems, Inc. have transformed a week-long payroll task into a mere two days.

Blair gives a lot of the credit for the new system to her reseller, whom she calls "the best consultant in the world."

"Platinum for Windows and its modules are very smooth and surprisingly easy to use," Blair notes. "We now have a completely integrated system — exactly what we need for our diverse inter-company environment."