

**Customer Profile:
Ottawa County
Sanitary Engineering Department**

Process: Utility Billing of water and sewer for the county

Billing Frequency: Monthly

Customer Base: 9,100

6,800 mail in & in person

2,300 electronic direct payment

Billing Personnel: 2 full time

Current Implementation: Accounts Receivable import to CMI

Future Implementation: Check Conversion (ACH) & X9.37 electronic deposit to the bank

Complexities: small postcard tear-off

**Ottawa County Courthouse
Port Clinton, OH**

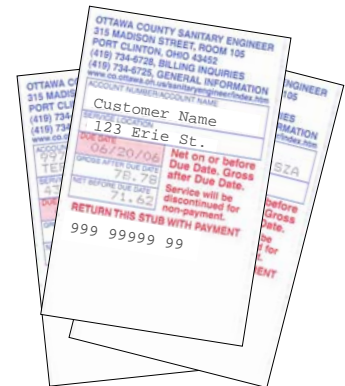



Ottawa County had always been interested in maximizing the use of technology to improve the efficiency of its operations. From the standpoint of their utility billing system, the various deadlines associated with its monthly utility billing cycle routinely lent it self to day-to-day issues that would contribute to the overall stress of the office and potential for overtime. In June of 2006, the department began to implement the automation of its accounts receivables data entry process. The Canon CR-180 Check Transport and the JDS Draft Conversion Plus software were selected by the department to be the best solution to improve their current accounts receivables efficiency.

The Canon CR-180 is one of the fastest on the market at 180cpm, with duplex scanning, a 200 check auto-feeder, 2 output pockets, a built-in imprinter, and more. This device scans both the checks and the invoice stubs for electronic presentment and for eventual paper elimination.

The JDS Draft Conversion Plus software takes the scanned data and compares it for balancing, exports the information to the core accounts receivable system and optionally transmits the information electronically to the bank. This software can facilitate a 60+% labor savings by implementing the AR importing. More over, this software can significantly reduce item fees with the bank, making it possible to realize a much quicker return on investment.

Ottawa County chose to implement a server based solution to enable multiple people to work simultaneously. They implemented the AR import initially and will most likely move to the added benefits of the electronic check conversion and X9.37 electronic depositing in the future. The biggest challenge to their installation was the small size of their utility invoice. Modifications to the invoice were necessary. The physical dimensions were increased for the scanner to handle the small document and the information was spaced out on the page for the optical character recognition to perform at higher accuracy levels.



 **CMI** Creative Microsystems Inc. worked with JDS to build the interface needed for this endeavor. Ottawa County is excited about the opportunity to apply this technology to its utility billing system and looks forward to the continued benefit of maintaining a smoother, more efficient billing operation.

This solution provided by ...
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"Quality Products, Professional Service"