

# Objectivity Case History

Don Beck

## Customer Information

Customer: Kangaroo  
Industry: Software  
Application Domain: Digital collaboration  
Status: Corporate visit complete ... looks like Versant is out.  
Platform: Sun Solaris & Windows NT  
Compiler: Smalltalk  
Other Tools: Replication

## Background:

Networks, intranets and the Internet have increased efficiency and changed the way businesses operate and manage information. Businesses are now dependent on acquiring, sharing and routing digital information, whether it's a company-wide memo, information from a (so-called) 'Push' channel, or a document that several people are collaboratively developing. The onslaught of information coupled with the ever-increasing number of users of this information has contributed to four problems:

- Currency ('stale' data)
- Scalability (increasing clients/info = increase in network strain)
- decreased reliability
- deteriorating efficiency

## Product: Punch

Punch is designed to be an application level network file manager. Punch 1.0 offers currency, reliability, scalability and efficiency, and provides an open foundation for the implementation of next-generation network file management and distribution systems, and enables more flexible, efficient, and reliable content management. With an Intranet focus, Punch 1.0 provides any user on a network with the ability to securely share files generated by common business productivity applications (such as MSWord, MS Excel, AutoCAD, etc.). Punch 1.0 allows this functionality, with unparalleled efficiency and ease of use. Punch does not require labor and time intensive intermediate steps of administrator set-up and configuration. Additionally, Punch 1.0 provides the assurance that whenever a subscribed file is updated by a publisher on the network, all other subscribed users will be alerted and updated.

## Buying Criteria:

- Performance
- Fault Tolerance
- Cost
- Data Replication – this is more important than making objects persistent
- Company stability

## Key issues:

Kangaroo had embarked on an Objectivity vs Versant path and quickly discovered that “Objectivity works out of the box” while Versant “has a number of quirks”. One small quirk is Versant’s ability to handle objects larger than a megabyte in size.