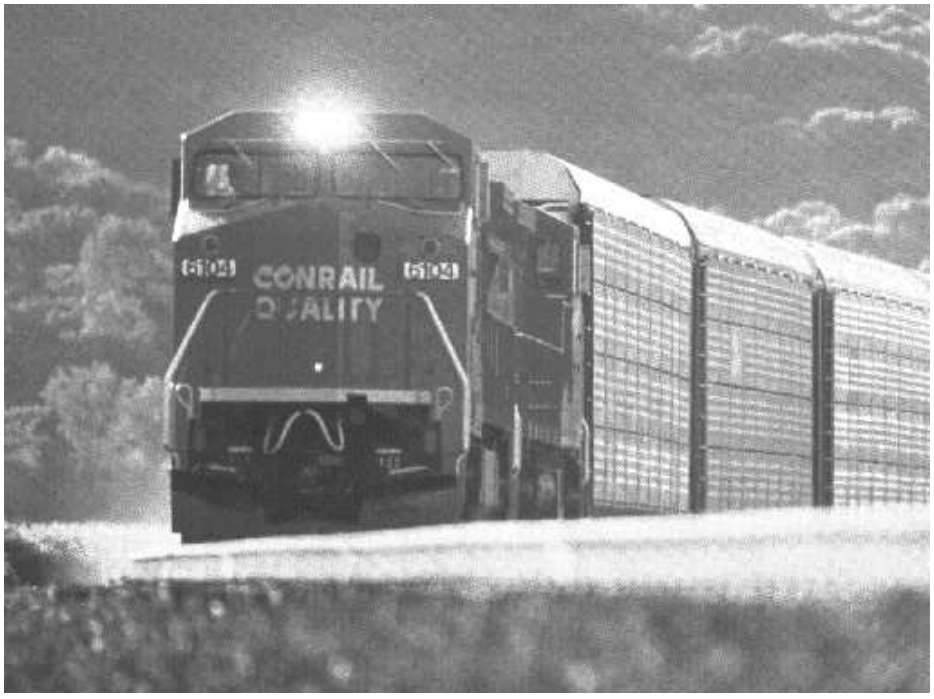
Consolidated Rail Corporation

DECmessageQ keeps Conrail on track

“From a systems integration point of view, DECmessageQ is the glue that ties two disparate architectures together — Digital and IBM.

In a peer-to-peer fashion DECmessageQ provides a common programming interface and the ability to easily manage and monitor the network.”

Joseph McGettigan, Director of Systems Software at Conrail



What works for companies in good economic times often fails them in difficult economic times.

Consolidated Rail Corporation, a $3 billion enterprise, and among the nation's largest transportation companies, learned this lesson in the late 1980s. As the economy began to weaken, Conrail faced tough competitors, and the complex task of making more efficient use of its disparate multivendor environment.

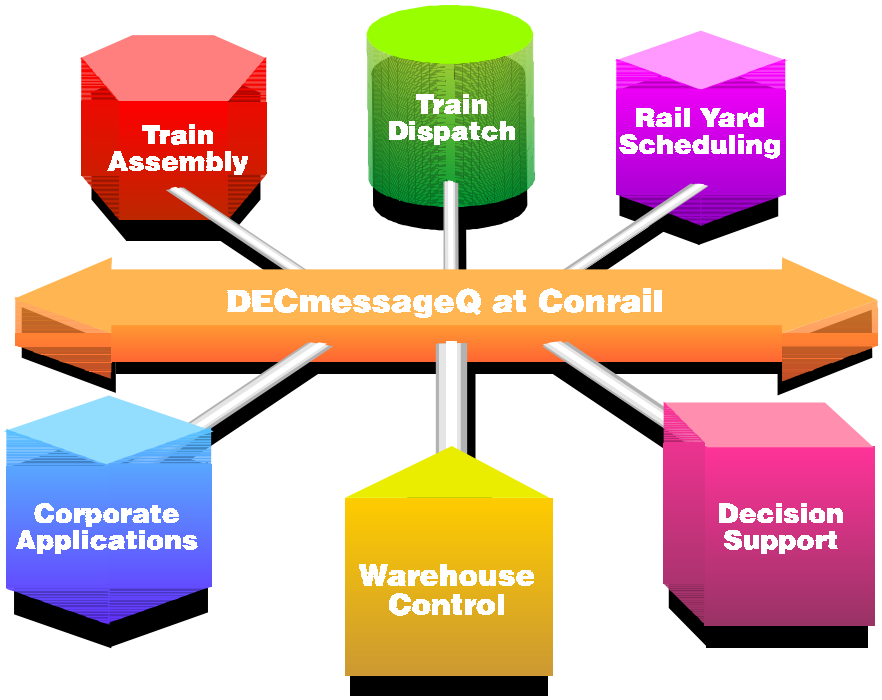
Conrail was tracking millions of tons of goods and thousands of vehicles 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Conrail chose DECmessageQ as the central piece in a solution to its problems.
Conrail uses DECmessageQ to integrate its Digital systems with its IBM mainframe, thus providing a complete and easy-to-manage system for monitoring all the messages which must be transmitted among its freight yards, its warehouses, and its corporate offices.

Process to process communication

DECmessageQ is a powerful, easy-to-use Message Oriented Middleware product which enables suites of applications to interoperate throughout a multivendor computing environment.

It achieves distributed communications based on a peer-to-peer mechanism called the DECmessageQ Message Queuing Bus. This message bus is a data highway that can be used to transfer messages between processes—whether the message is a request for service across the network or a request for information needed by a distributed application.



Reliable communication for critical systems

Message Recovery Services provide guaranteed message delivery from one application to another ensuring that no data is lost, as well as providing monitoring and alarm capabilities to assist Conrail's operations staff.

Among other elements in Conrail's DECmessageQ solution are the Computer Dispatch System to control and monitor the movements of trains; Hump Yards to assemble trains; and a Warehouse Control System which is in realtime two-way communication with the CICS-based IBM mainframe.

A cost effective solution for multivendor integration problems

DECmessageQ has enabled Conrail to control costs, operate more efficiently, and to make more competitive use of its multivendor environment.

Part of Digital's Enterprise Software portfolio, DECmessageQ runs on all major UNIX operating systems, OpenVMS, Windows NT, Macintosh, OS/2, Windows, MS-DOS(R), selected IBM environments via LU6.2, and on a wide variety of industry-leading hardware.

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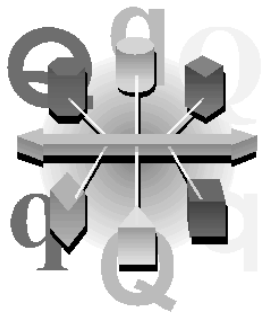

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