

# IBM Customer Story



**Andy Youens**

IBM i Consultant/Instructor  
FormaServe Systems



# IBM Customer Story

## FormaServe Systems

Industry: Computer Services

Country: United Kingdom

FormaServe Systems is a leading provider of IBM i support, education and consultancy. They are completely dedicated to providing their clients innovative and essential products and services for IBM i on Power Systems. Their staff have been working with IBM i since the announcement of the AS/400 in 1988. They are very active in the user group community such as i-UG and COMMON and promoting the platform through social media, newsletters, conference speaking and more. Their latest endeavor is helping their clients to adopt new technologies on IBM i such as open source.

Recently, the HM Revenue and Customs department in the United Kingdom has introduced a new policy called “Making Tax Digital”. Initially focused on VAT reporting, companies are now required to automate their VAT reporting. The new policy will fully go into effect on April 1st, 2019. This is a new way of reporting business records for organizations within the United Kingdom, and will streamline the tax return process and reduce potential errors caused by human intervention.

FormaServe Systems built a new software solution for IBM i clients. Using RPG and the open source Node.js framework Express, the solution takes the tax values being tracked by most financial application packages, processes them, and securely transmits them to the tax department. The software communicates with the HMRC servers to allow companies to track their liabilities and payments. FormaServe submitted their solution to the HM Revenue and Customs department for validation. The tax

<https://www.ibm.com/it-infrastructure/us-en/resources/power/ibm-i-customer-stories/#3>

# IBM Customer Story - HMRC

- Making Tax Digital is a key part of the government's plans to make it easier for individuals & businesses to get their tax right & keep on top of their affairs
- Making Tax Digital is making fundamental changes to the way the tax system works – transforming tax administration so that it is:
  - More effective
  - More efficient
  - Easier for taxpayers to get their tax right
- VAT registered businesses with a taxable turnover above the VAT threshold (£85k) are now required to use the Making Tax Digital service to keep records digitally & use software to submit their VAT Returns
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-tax-digital/overview-of-making-tax-digital>

# IBM Customer Story - Us

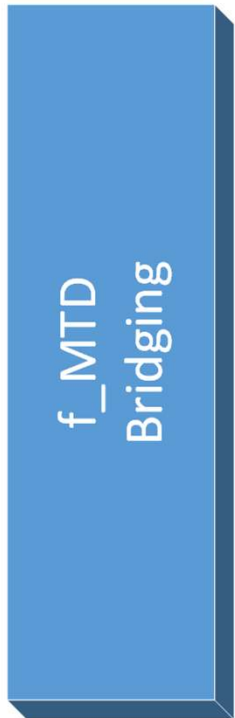
- Where did it start for us?
- Telephone call from client
  - How do we transmit our VAT returns from our IBM i?
- Their financials were held in System/36 files with software written in 1983!
- Yes of course we can do it – Its on the IBM i was our reply!
- Then the fun began ...



# A Node Application – f\_MTD

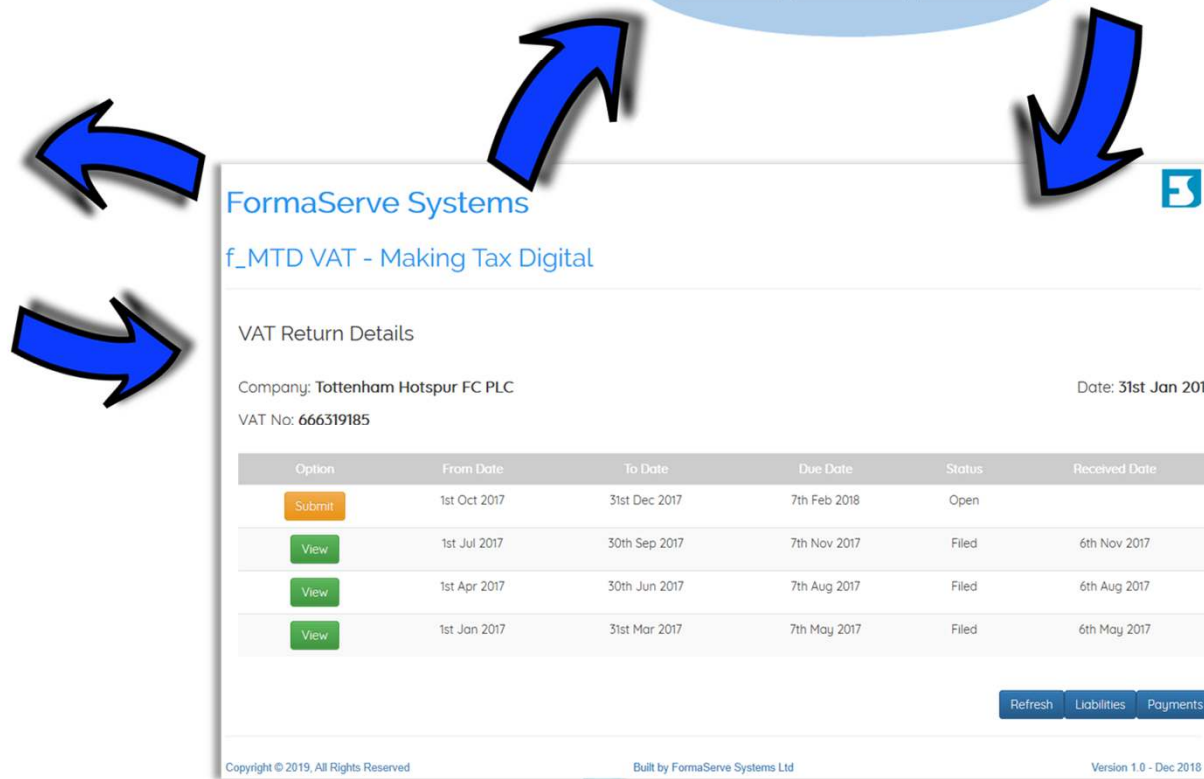


IBM i  
Financials



HMRC

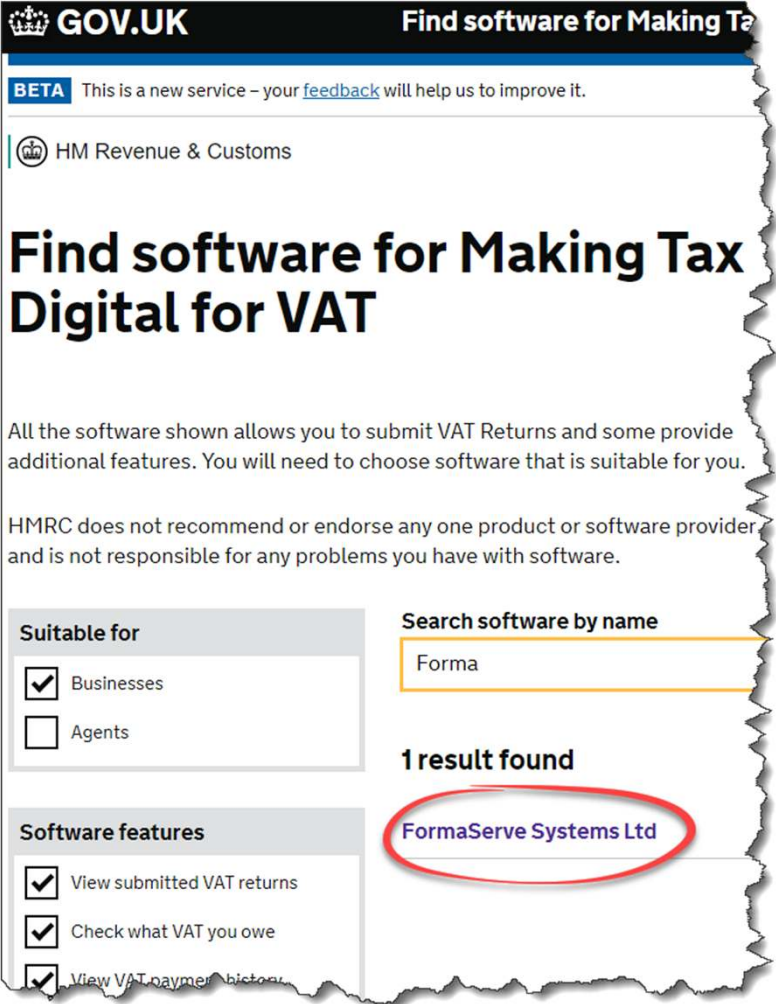
HMRC  
Making  
Tax  
Digital



# IBM Customer Story - Us

- Before software can be used to submit VAT returns, it has to be demonstrated to then approved by HMRC

**APPROVED**



**GOV.UK** Find software for Making Tax Digital for VAT

**BETA** This is a new service – your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

HM Revenue & Customs

## Find software for Making Tax Digital for VAT

All the software shown allows you to submit VAT Returns and some provide additional features. You will need to choose software that is suitable for you.

HMRC does not recommend or endorse any one product or software provider and is not responsible for any problems you have with software.

**Suitable for**

- Businesses
- Agents

**Search software by name**

Forma

**1 result found**

**FormaServe Systems Ltd**

**Software features**

- View submitted VAT returns
- Check what VAT you owe
- View VAT payment history

# IBM Customer Story - Us

- Technology we used
  - Open Source Software
    - Node.js
    - Node Express Framework
  - IBM i
    - RPG & CL Programming Languages
    - ILE
    - DB2 & SQL
    - JSON



# IBM Customer Story

- What's next for HMRC?
  - Next year will expand MTD VAT to include transactions
  - Will include Corporation Tax filing
  - Making Tax Digital for Income Tax
  - Helping businesses, self-employed people & landlords get it right first time



# Anything Else?



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 FormaServe Systems



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# Thank You!



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