Multi-Version Switch

TECHNOLOGY THAT DRIVES TRANSPORTATION™

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

A high-end function of PC*MILER®|Connect, the Multi-Version Switch (MVS) serves as an integration tool designed to simultaneously support multiple versions of the product that are installed on one server or on several different servers. Replacing the need to manually query data from each individual version, the MVS functions as the main connection point to programmatically gain access to the version of choice.

MVS eliminates the need to purchase and maintain multiple PCs or servers to generate mileage calculations. It supports your bid preparation, accounting functions and customer contracts that may specify a different version of PC*MILER mileage or toll amounts generated by PC*MILER|Tolls. Price each customer's rates accurately based on their negotiated, contracted and requested version.

Product features and benefits include:

- Simultaneously support multiple versions of PC*MILER|Connect on a single server or desktop computer.
- Reduce the number of dedicated network servers to support along with their maintenance costs and setup fees.
- Cut labor costs by eliminating manual route entry processes.
- Ensure customers that contracts can be made and kept using their version of choice.

BUSINESS NEED

ALK's products are the de-facto industry standard software solutions for determining mileage and toll costs between two locations. Thousands of over-the-road carriers as well as shippers use our products as a means to determine the mileage that can be agreed upon for billing purposes.

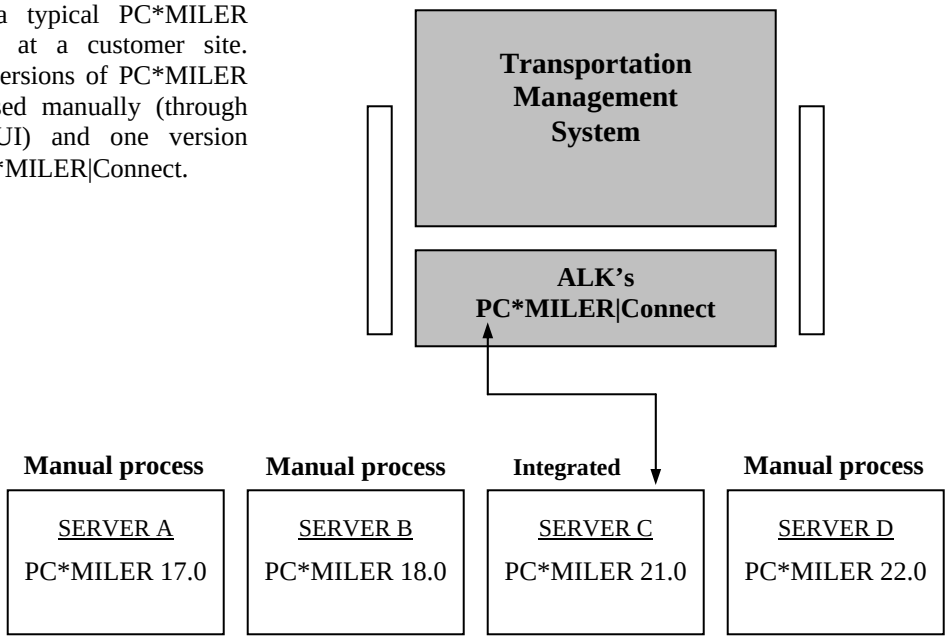
During negotiations between a shipper and carrier, a specific version of PC*MILER is identified that will serve as the standard by which mileage is to be determined. Sometimes, the carrier has a certain release but the shipper wants to standardize on an older version of the product, despite the fact that ALK's support may be limited to the latest major release of the product plus one major version back. This can create an issue for the carriers because in order to support the many customers (shippers) they have, they must support multiple versions, even some versions that are no longer supported by ALK.

To add to the issues, ALK's products are designed to replace certain access files (the DLLs) when installing. This means that if, for example, you have Version 20.0 on a server and then install Version 21.0 on the same server, you would overwrite the access files for V20.0 and would then be unable to access that version. This is a large issue for the carriers who want to integrate all versions of PC*MILER into their current Transportation Management System (TMS) for billing with one call to one server, not multiple servers.

An example of how some of our customers are currently utilizing PC*MILER|Connect is depicted below in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1: Current Business Scenario (no MVS)

This illustrates a typical PC*MILER application stack at a customer site. There are three versions of PC*MILER which are accessed manually (through PC*MILER's GUI) and one version integrated via PC*MILER|Connect.



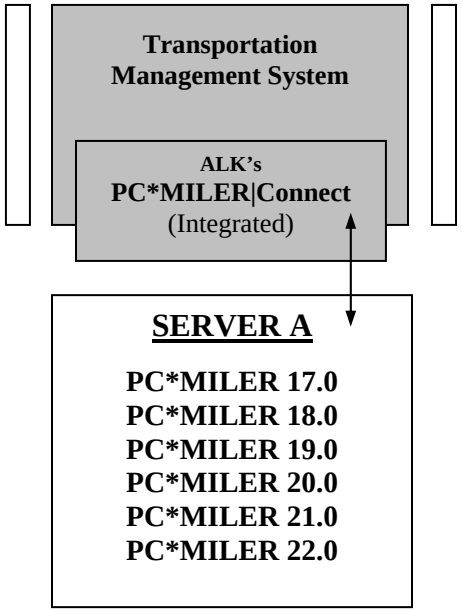
To improve the business scenario above, ALK developed the MVS to allow customers to run all of the associated versions on one server, as well as have one connection point into their Transportation Management System. Customers benefit operationally from the fact that all of the versions run on the same server, with the associated cost benefits of reduced hardware purchasing and decreased cost in hardware maintenance.

In addition, there is a reduction in manual PC*MILER or PC*MILER|Tolls interventions which can be excessive due to customer requirements for multiple versions. The only thing that changes in this scenario is that the transportation management system needs to pass a parameter that identifies the version the customer is utilizing. This parameter can be carried on the customer record within the database. The parameter is passed to the MVS, which then returns the data associated with that version.

Figure 1.2 on the next page illustrates what an MVS deployment might look like.

Figure 1.2: Future Business Scenario (with MVS)

This illustrates a potential PC*MILER application stack at a customer site. There are four versions of PC*MILER, all loaded on one server and accessed by the TMS through one integration point.



TECHNICAL OVERVIEW*

The PC*MILER Multi-Version Switch currently provides connections to any version, or combination of versions, listed below:

- PC*MILER|Connect 17.0 or 17.1
- PC*MILER|Connect 18.0 or 18.1
- PC*MILER|Connect 19.0 or 19.1
- PC*MILER|Connect 20.0 or 20.1
- PC*MILER|Connect 21.0 or 21.1
- PC*MILER|Connect 22.0 or 22.1

* NOTE: ALK fully supports the current version and two versions back of each product. As of April 1, 2008, ALK fully supports all V20, V21, and V22 products, and support for versions earlier than V20 is limited to existing workarounds or patches.

In addition all of the following data modules released for each version of PC*MILER are available in the Multi-Version Switch:

- PC*MILER|Streets – U.S. and Canada
- PC*MILER|Tolls
- PC*MILER|HazMat
- Canadian Postal Codes
- Standard Point Location Codes (SPLCs)

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS*

Environment: PC with a minimum 1-2 GHz processor

Platforms: PC/LAN Windows® (2000, 2003, Vista, and XP)
AS/400

Requirements: 256 MB RAM

Other: Qualified PC*MILER|Connect versions listed above in the *Technical Overview* section

* These are general requirements for the PC*MILER Multi-Version Switch. For more information please consult the specific requirements for each version of PC*MILER and PC*MILER|Connect.

ABOUT ALK TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

ALK Technologies, Inc., Princeton, N.J., was founded in 1979 by Princeton University professor Dr. Alain Kornhauser. The expertise of ALK's team includes computer science, transportation, operations research, digital cartography, and management systems. For over 28 years, ALK Technologies has helped customers navigate the growth and transformation of transportation technology through consulting services, custom information systems and packaged software solutions. Headquartered in Princeton, New Jersey, ALK is a privately-held company with a focus on market leadership in transportation and technology.

More than 22,000 companies use ALK's PC*MILER Solutions including 96% of the "Top 100" North American motor carriers, the U.S. Department of Defense, the General Services Administration and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.