



**Customer:** Hommes & Process  
**Web Site:** [www.hommesetprocess.com](http://www.hommesetprocess.com)  
**Customer Size:** 15 employees  
**Country or Region:** France  
**Industry:** Professional services

#### Customer Profile

Based in Paris and with customers throughout Europe, Hommes & Process provides collaboration solutions and consulting based on Microsoft® Office Groove® 2007 to public and private organizations.

#### Software and Services

- Microsoft® Office System
  - Microsoft Office Groove® 2007
  - Microsoft Office Groove Server 2007
  - Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007
- Microsoft Windows® Server System
  - Microsoft SQL Server™ 2005
- Developer Tools
  - Microsoft Visual Studio® 2005
  - Microsoft Team Foundation Server
  - Microsoft .NET Framework 3.0

#### Hardware

- Dell PowerEdge SC1420 (64-bit)
- Dell OptiPlex GX 520
- Dell Latitude D820

For more information about other Microsoft customer successes, please visit:  
[www.microsoft.com/casestudies](http://www.microsoft.com/casestudies)

## Software Provider Adopts Secure Collaboration Solution for Internal Projects

**“We embrace Office Groove 2007 for enabling us to put people, processes, and technology together with terrific value.”**

Jean Michel Davault, Founder and Managing Director, Hommes & Process

*Executives at Hommes & Process, a major French distributor of collaboration solutions based on Groove® Virtual Office, now part of the 2007 Microsoft® Office system, wanted to apply their expertise internally. They deployed an early version of Office Groove 2007 to a group of testers, who found the solution to be a convenient collaboration tool for the company’s highly mobile workforce and a dynamic environment for working across firewalls.*

#### Business Needs

Founded in 2001 and now employing 15 people, Hommes & Process offers collaboration solutions and services to companies of all sizes throughout Europe. Also known as RealTimeWork, Hommes & Process holds fast to a motto of considering people first and processes second, and supporting them both with the strongest collaboration technology available.

In the beginning, company staff relied on Lotus Notes and Lotus Domino for internal collaboration needs, but they soon found those products to be limited by their customization costs. Staff members also recognized the value of being able to collaborate securely across firewalls, but

became frustrated at the difficulty of doing so in Lotus Notes.

#### Solution

Then, Hommes & Process discovered Groove® Virtual Office. “We saw that with Groove out-of-the-box, our distributed teams could collaborate more efficiently, and that with Microsoft® COM and Microsoft .NET development technologies, we could customize the product into the collaboration environment we needed,” says Jean Michel Davault, Founder and Managing Director of Hommes & Process. “We also saw that because of its dynamic nature, Groove technology would make an ideal platform for the collaboration solutions we wanted to offer our customers.”

With growing success, Hommes & Process used Groove Virtual Office solutions internally and for deployment to its customers. In early 2005, Davault and his colleagues welcomed the news that Groove Virtual Office had become part of Microsoft; in 2006, the product became part of the 2007 Microsoft Office system. That same year, Hommes & Process became a major distributor of Microsoft Office Groove 2007 in France.

Also in 2006, Hommes & Process deployed a test implementation of Office Groove 2007 and within a month had created or migrated 400 workspaces. Since then, Hommes & Process test users have successfully tested Groove Forms, Web services, and integration with Groove Databridge Server to support development, marketing, and operational projects. In addition, the company is ready to deploy even more sophisticated implementations of Office Groove 2007 to customers. One such implementation helps in managing and coordinating a project composed of distributed teams from different organizations.

## Benefits

Davault reports a number of benefits from the implementation of Office Groove 2007 at Hommes & Process, for individual and team productivity and for enhancing the company's reputation as a leading provider of collaboration solutions.

- **Connection for a distributed and mobile workforce.** At Hommes & Process, a workforce of 15 people are supporting more than 100 customers across Europe, and this requires significant travel. For Davault, Office Groove 2007 simplifies the challenge.

"With Office Groove 2007, developers, consultants, marketing professionals, and

others can work together with headquarters and colleagues who are also traveling without requiring IT assistance or external server resources," Davault explains. "In my own experience, there were times I collaborated with colleagues or customers to access and consolidate confidential data from our offices and from the customers' offices to produce financial and marketing documents in just a few hours. Such achievements would have been impossible having to rely on e-mail."

- **Ease of access, ease of use.** Hommes & Process needed a collaboration solution for internal use that can be accessed easily, and for Davault, Office Groove 2007 provides just that. "For us, Office Groove 2007 workspaces are accessible to users whenever and wherever they happen to be working," he says. Another ease-of-access capability is the product's recently introduced French-language user interface, which Davault credits with helping Hommes & Process to secure a multiyear contract with a major governmental agency.

- **A foundation for productivity.** "Groove stands alone in motivating both personal and team productivity," Davault says. For this, he points to features such as automatic alerts and file synchronization, which help to keep project teams up-to-date with the latest changes to any given document.

For easy transition between online and offline work, Davault appreciates the product's integration with other Microsoft products and, especially, SharePoint Server and SQL Server. "More than a simple collaboration platform, Groove also provides developers with an advanced and

secured communication infrastructure to create powerful distributed applications," he adds.

- **Secure support for consulting.** Because consulting is an essential component of what Hommes & Process offers its customers, the company values the rapidly accessible and highly secure collaboration available through Office Groove 2007.

"Thanks to its use of certificates, powerful encryption, and an invitation-based security model, Groove 2007 provides an amazing level of trust and mobility without the need for a secure server," Davault says. "As a result, we not only minimize IT costs but also are able to establish a neutral trusted zone for collaboration, the ideal environment for working with our customers."

In sum, "Having an easily accessible, secure, and powerful solution supporting collaboration among Hommes & Process staffers and with customers is central to our success as a provider of collaboration solutions," Davault says. "We embrace Office Groove 2007 for enabling us to put people, processes, and technology together with terrific value. That's how we help ourselves and our customers to fully understand the value of collaboration."