STORA ENSO

PLANNING SYSTEM MODULE DEVELOPMENT

Challenges

Establishment of a system of forest supply management

Minimization of the costs of warehousing and transportation

Creation of web modules with complex data analysis

Solution

Creation of planning system module with user-friendly interface

Module needed to aggregate company's data on any level

Client needed module to have a possibility of making amendments to the plan at any time and saving search profiles and grids for later usage

Result

Reduction of wasted raw materials

Stora Enso achieved efficient results with a help of the better planning module

Client's ability to produce better result in shorter time with a less cost

Client

Stora Enso is a global paper, packaging and wood products company producing newsprint and book paper, magazine paper, fine paper, consumer board, industrial packaging and wood products. Stora Enso's sales totalled EUR 10.3 billion in 2010. The Group has some 26 000 employees in more than 35 countries worldwide. Stora Enso Wood Supply Finland is responsible for wood procurement in Finland. Totalling about 18 million m^3 annually, the wood is supplied to Stora Enso's mills in Finland. More than half of the volume is obtained from privately-owned forests.

In wood procurement, Wood Supply Finland's employees and contractors have access to the latest technology. Felling and transport are optimised with the help of information systems, in order to be able to harvest the wood to the highest standards, and to transport it to the sawmills, pulp and paper mills as efficiently and environmentally friendly as possible.

Challenge

Pursuing the goal of the most efficient use of natural resources, Stora Enso decided to establish a system of forest supply management. The company needed to minimize the costs of warehousing and transportation, as well as reducing losses related to extended storage of raw materials.

The new planning system needed to meet several requirements:

- All updates made by any employee needed to be immediately reflected throughout the system.
- Data distribution between server and workstation users had to be balanced so that users could work independently outside the office. This feature has to be combined with the possibility of rapid data updates on the server and efficient operation of the system by all users.

It was not possible to buy an off-the-shelf product, as no single planning system met all the requirements listed above. As a result, Stora Enso had to develop its own system.

Technology
Platform .NET 4.0, Tools IIS 7, Microsoft IE 8, Silverlight 4, O/R Mapping (EF 4.0), C# 4.0, LINQ, XML/XAML, WCF RIA Services SP1 for Silverlight 4, Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2, VIBlend Silverlight controls 4.0, DevExpress silverlight components 10.1.4.

Type of service
Enterprise Application Development
Enterprise Application Integration

Scale
5 man-years

Timeframe
2010

Challenge (continued)
Microsoft Silverlight was used as the technology platform for creating the web modules with complex data analysis (preferably in Pivot mode). For other modules, other technologies could be chosen (ASP.NET MVC / Flash+ActionScript / XNA for mobile apps, etc.)

Solution
Reksoft was chosen to provide essential software development services due to its extensive experience in creating software systems based on Microsoft technologies and Reksoft's long-term partnership with Microsoft corporation. Reksoft software engineers created Action Plan, a planning system module, where customer specialists can store information about deliveries and search for and produce the sample data needed to display them in tables and graphs. Similar in appearance to a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, the application boasts an intuitive user interface alongside complex functionality. It makes it possible to make plans for the procurement and delivery of timber according to multiple parameters (including different recipients and providers), with up to 3 million different data combinations. The module also features an editable pivot table with the ability to change the order of rows or columns, aggregating data on any level. Another interesting feature is that users can save their preferred search profile and the grid's current appearance and use them later.

With the new application, Stora Enso employees can effectively manage wood supply on a biweekly basis, and make necessary amendments to the plan at any time.

Result
Reksoft's module results in greater efficiency for Stora Enso, obtained through better planning and a reduction in wasted raw materials. End customers benefit because of the time and cost savings Stora Enso is now able to pass along to them. The project was so successful that Stora Enso is currently planning to involve Reksoft in the development of a further three software modules, including a project on the integration of the bio-energy obtained from the timber remaining after felling and wood processing has taken place.

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