Praxinet
THE Performance Management EXPERTS.

CASE STUDY

Praxinet Provides a Valuable Procurement and Expense Report Tool to a Growing Solutions Provider

THE CLIENT

Praxinet's client, a wholly owned subsidiary of a public telecommunications company, is a worldwide leading provider of e-business integration solutions for companies of all sizes. The company specializes in creating, powering and managing secure e-marketplaces where multiple buyers and sellers can exchange goods and services, collaborate on business opportunities, and share information faster and at lower costs.

THE CHALLENGE

The solutions provider was using a Lotus Notes-based application for its purchase order processes. It had become apparent that it needed a more flexible, user-oriented purchase order system that would allow its personnel to "work smarter." Given the growth of the company and the relative youth of "off-the-shelf" applications, it wanted a solution that would be customizable and scalable. Other segments of the company might be candidates for this system as well, so it was important that the solution could be easily expanded as needed.

Since the company had been working off a Lotus Notes database, the new solution would need to be compatible to minimize the need for re-keying. As well, the company was considering the implementation of PeopleSoft, and the timeline was uncertain. The new solution would need to work both independently or with PeopleSoft.

THE SOLUTION

The company engaged Praxinet to design and implement a system that would improve the efficiency of its procurement and expense reporting processes. To provide both scalability and additional security measures, Praxinet designed a solution that leveraged its client's existing intranet.

Praxinet worked with select end-users and members of its client's finance group to form an implementation team. The team worked with users throughout the company in Joint Requirements Planning (JRP) sessions to define the requirements of the new application. Praxinet determined that the company needed the ability to automate the purchase order approval process, forecast expenses, and track timesheets within a simple, integrated interface. Praxinet also provided its client with valuable business process consulting on how to approach these tasks.

Praxinet separated the engagement into multiple phases:
- Design, implementation, and creation of the databases
- Creation of expense report, purchase order, and timesheet templates
- Creation of automated data extraction and data loading routines
- Creation of an Intranet interface
- Creation of analytical and standardized financial reports

Praxinet implemented the final application, conducted comprehensive user analysis and testing, and provided end-user training to complete the engagement.

THE TECHNOLOGY

Microsoft Internet Information Server	Microsoft SQL Server 7.0
Active Server Pages	Microsoft Excel
HTML	
C++	

THE BENEFITS

Praxinet delivered to its client an intranet solution with exceptional speed and is confident that the solution, called ERPOT, will achieve all the client's goals. It will prove to be a cost-effective replacement for their Lotus Notes-based system and allow the client to avoid the high implementation costs of an "off-the-shelf," third-party packaged solution. As well, the ERPOT system can be easily scaled for additional users or other departments without requiring the additional purchase of potentially expensive seats. Praxinet's solution provides what existing packaged solutions could not: purchase order capability customized and built off the same technology and architecture.

Having been designed to the client's specific needs, ERPOT is intuitive to the end users and requires little training. Having designed ERPOT to work independently, Praxinet effectively eliminated the requirement to train users on the use of the PeopleSoft application. The web interface allows timely delivery of valuable information as well as reduced paperwork and processing costs. By publishing information on a secure, external platform, Praxinet provided its client with increased security of its accounting system while reducing the bandwidth load on the network.

Praxinet provided its client with a solution that will be flexible and scalable over the long term at a manageable cost. Praxinet's solution will allow its client to "work smarter" using a tool that did not require it to change

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