

Lotus Notes to Sharepoint Forms Migration

Vishwak Solutions Pvt. Limited

Business Requirement

A leading Multinational Bank had hundreds of custom application built and running over the years on IBM Lotus Notes 4.x platform. One of them included a form based application used for Project Management. The Bank's IT team was facing difficulties related to scalability and constant updates which were time consuming especially to test and deploy. They couldn't move to newer versions (or) any other alternate client software, both of which required they install new software on the client machines and the bank has a new policy of no new software/framework install on clients. Therefore the only option was a server application that works with standard Web Browsers on the client. The IT team wanted to use the opportunity to move to a new platform that is secure, scalable and provide RAD environment.

Recommended Solution

Vishwak's team of Enterprise consultants worked on the situation along with the clients IT Team and came with a recommendation. It was to migrate the application to Microsoft's Forms Server 2007 (based on Microsoft SharePoint Technology) and Windows WorkFlow Foundation (.NET Framework 3.0).

Forms Server 2007 gave the ability to create Enterprise forms on the server using InfoPath 2007, Store & Version control the collected data in the server, render the forms in the client using Internet Explorer 6.0 (or equivalent Web Browser). This recommendation was found by the client to be satisfying all their preset goals of Scalability & Security through SharePoint Technologies, no client install as InfoPath forms in Office 2007 render in any web browser, Office SharePoint Designer 2007 provided a RAD environment for designing forms.

Server Environment: • Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 • Microsoft Office Forms Server 2007 • Microsoft SQL Server 2005 • Microsoft .NET Framework 3.0

Development Environment: • Microsoft Office SharePoint Designer 2007 (Formerly FrontPage) • Microsoft Office Infopath 2007 • Visual Studio 2005 with .NET 3.0 Extensions (Optional)

Client Environment: • Internet Explorer 6.0/7.0 (or) • Any W3C compliant modern Web Browser which support scripting

Founded in 2001, Vishwak Solutions Pvt. Ltd. is a Global Innovator in Application Development and Maintenance focusing on Outsourced Web Portals, Mobile Web Applications and Enterprise Solutions. Vishwak boasts a strong technical team of over 100 people and is led by T.N.C.Venkata Rangan, a renowned technocrat businessman and a Microsoft (MSDN) Regional Director for Chennai. Spread globally across offices in Chennai, Bangalore and in Redmond (Washington, USA), Vishwak brings in deep domain experience in developing and managing leading portals including MSN.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a 'TRAVEL REQUEST' form. The form is titled 'Vishwak' and contains the following sections:

- Business Purpose:** Project Deployment
- Request Date:** 10/10/2006
- Traveler Information:** Name: E Ravi, Email address: ervai@vishwak.com
- Trips:** A table with columns for From, To, Departure Date, Departure Time, Return Date, Return Time, and checkboxes for 'Include hotel' and 'Include car rental'. The first row shows: From: Chennai, To: TEXAS, Departure Date: 10/10/2006, Departure Time: Anytime, Return Date: 10/13/2006, Return Time: Anytime.
- Preferences:** Trip Class: Economy / Coach, Car Class: Compact, Seat Location: Window, and a checkbox for 'Non-smoking hotel room required'.
- Notes:** A section for additional comments.