



Symphony helped a US based ISV to strategically move its legacy ERP application to .NET platform and bring in dynamic and contemporary visual appeal to gain significant competitive advantage in the market.

The Client

The client is a US based ISV specializing in integrated enterprise resource planning (ERP) software for metal service centers, fabricators, and other "To Order" focused industries. For over 15 years, they have been serving the unique business demands of small-to-medium size manufacturers and distributors across the globe.

The Challenges

The client's flagship ERP application was built over a legacy PowerBuilder platform. The application had a large installation base and was renowned in the market space for its user-friendly and simple user interface.

Over the time, there was growing feedback from the end-users on the limitations of the product's user interface coupled with time consuming and expensive customization associated with it. Hence, the client looked to leverage the power of modern technology and provide enhanced end-user experience up-to-date and consistent across the application, to make it more attractive and advanced.

The Solution

Symphony's solution to the client included designing an open architecture using Microsoft .NET framework to rebuild the existing ERP application. Windows Communication Foundation (WCF) provided a unified programming model for rapidly building service-oriented application that communicate across the web and the enterprise.

Windows Presentation Foundation helped to bring the contemporary look and feel to the ERP application. The screens had 'liquid screen' effect and had the flexibility to auto size themselves.

Product Development

Re-engineering/Modernization

Platform

Microsoft .NET

Functional Domain

ERP for Manufacturers and distributors

Engagement Key Points

- Project duration – 2 Years
- Ramp Up Time from SOW sign off – Immediate
- Team Composition – 1 Project Manager and 3 Software Engineers
- SDLC – Agile
- Release Cycle – short iterations

Technology and Tools Used

- Microsoft .NET Framework
- SQL Server 2008
- Visual Studio Team Foundation Server
- Visual Studio Team System
- Windows Communication Foundation (WCF)
- Windows Presentation Foundation (WPF)

Major Product Features

- Wizard to help end-users to generate over 150 dynamic maintenance forms
- In-built GUI Form Designer allows to customize the forms without requiring much technical skills or any third party tool



The zoom feature enabled to scale up and down the forms as per user need.

A GUI based Form Designer was built into the ERP application which allowed Users/Administrators to customize forms as per the business need. It also provided tools to add new controls like labels, images, web pages etc to enhance a form and thereby enabling the users to change the look and feel to suite their business/organization branding needs. A simple wizard helped to generate multiple dynamic maintenance forms and maintain seed (initial / static) data.

A customizable dashboard allowed users to access the reports in a simple and quick way. An efficient query builder helped users to create custom queries, and get data from the MS SQL server database without the need of having prior SQL knowledge. A data lookup screen provided many advanced features like grouping, sorting, and filters to locate appropriate data.

The Benefits

Symphony's superior software R&D skills helped achieve the following benefits for the client:

- 'Liquid Screen' effect in UI while maintaining the familiar look and feel of Microsoft Office interface provided distinct competitive advantage
- Brought down the time for customizations from days to minutes, this greatly enabled higher customer adoption