



Symphony helped a US-based Microsoft Gold Certified Partner to build a state-of-the-art student information system portal and tightly integrate it with Microsoft Dynamics CRM platform to effectively combine School with Social Networking.

The Client

The client is a US-based established ISV focusing in developing specific Microsoft Business solutions in the areas of ERP, Fund Raising and Education. The company was formed through the dual collaboration of experienced entrepreneurs and cutting-edge technologists. The client's mission was to link master technologists with clients facing significant and challenging technical projects. The company has history of successful partnerships while serving its global clientele.

The Challenges

The client embarked upon an ambitious project to build a Student Information System with high level of information transparency and accountability reporting, that engages parents and students, and addresses all the functions that a district and school require. They had a blueprint of a student information system but looked to outsource development to a software R&D partner to lower TCO of development and focus on serving the customers better.

The Solution

Symphony adopted a structured knowledge transition process that helped to train the offshore resources effectively to understand the architecture, business functionality and development practices of client. Symphony followed a collaborative development approach and implemented VSTS.

Symphony's solution to the client included designing a fully functional web-based information system that allows role-based access for teachers, department chairs, counselors, administrators, and specialized departments such as Health and Special Education.

Product Development and Integration

Platform

Microsoft .NET / Microsoft Dynamics CRM

Industry / Domain

Education

Engagement Key Points

- Project duration – 10 months
- Ramp Up Time from SOW sign off – two weeks
- Peak Team Size – 7
- Team Composition – Project Manager – 1, Developer-3, Quality Engineer – 1, Data Migration Expert – 1,
- Engagement model: Fixed Cost
- SDLC: Agile
- Release cycle – 2 weeks with 2 weeks sprint iteration

Technology and Tools Used

- ASP.NET, C#, JavaScript
- MS CRM 4.0
- IIS 6.0
- Infragistics Controls
- AJAX 1.0
- SQL Server 2005
- Scribe

Major Product Features

- Parent/School portal built on state-of-the-art technology – on MS Dynamics CRM platform – combining school with social networking
- Single point portal access to all information for teachers and other staff members
- Online Master Scheduling
- State Reporting
- 360 degree view - Effective analysis on assessment test results and student progress



The system included a fully integrated parent/student portal using ASP.NET and incorporated popular social networking functionalities however, limited to students within the district / school. The system supported Newsletters, Photo Galleries, Student Handbooks, School Calendars, Cafeteria Information, School Contacts, Course Syllabus & Lesson Plans, and Detailed Student Information covering Grades, Assignments, Schedule, Attendance, Discipline and more.

All users of this portal can subscribe to alerts with provisions to display reports on personal dashboards, delivered as e-mails or even a message to a mobile device.

The portal tightly integrates with Microsoft Dynamics CRM[™] by leveraging its built-in functionality to provide a rich user experience. Further, the portal also integrates with Microsoft Office Suite and Microsoft Outlook.

Use of Scribe Data Migration tool ensured smooth data migration from other databases like PostgreSQL. A smart reporting module employs a unique approach to deal with the persistent changes in state reporting requirements. Any changes to state reporting requirements are addressed swiftly and without underlying data model changes. There is also support for creating and managing state reporting snapshots.

The Benefits

Symphony's collaborative development approach combined with superior software R&D skills helped achieve the following benefits for the client:

- Speed release-to-market a revolutionary end-to-end student information portal with tight integration to MS Dynamics CRM that brought in secured high level of information transparency and engaged students and parents effectively
- Adherence to compliance with state and district education boards reporting requirements