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A dynamic solution

Realizing the benefits of new Dynamics CRM 4.0

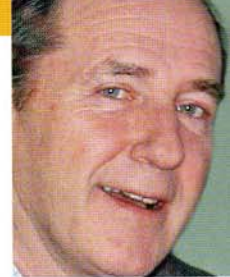
Dispensing efficiency

SureShot stirs Vista into its mix

REVVING UP INTELLIGENCE

George Hamin and Subaru Canada shift their data into high gear with Microsoft Business Intelligence

Data cleanup at AquaTech transforms company



By André Larose, President, Techtra

Wastewater management firm illustrates need for spic and span information

Doing business in today's information age means dealing with an ever-increasing amount of data generated by a multitude of software solutions. While the ability to collect more information represents a distinct advantage not available to businesses in previous eras, that very information can pose new challenges — ones that can represent significant time and monetary losses if not dealt with properly.

Add to this that data accumulation also puts new strains on a firm's storage capabilities, and it's easy to see that keeping on top of all those ones and zeroes is of paramount importance. Take the case of Longueuil, Que.'s Aquatech Water Management Services Inc., a management specialist for water and wastewater treatment facilities. Disparate information storage systems and locations made sharing data difficult.

The firm was looking for a solution to manage its list of facilities and for each facility to maintain equipment lists and to handle preventive maintenance and calibration of equipment processes. Each process uses a certain number of reports that must also be available every month for stakeholders and government agencies. As well, there are several other documents that need to be produced and some of them must be printed and distributed to people involved in the process.

Furthermore, there was a requirement for off-site collaboration tools to manage workflows and projects that are easy to use and to keep employees connected with up-to-date information. Aquatech, working with Microsoft partner Techtra, decided to deploy a number of Microsoft technologies to get the results they were looking

for. These included Windows Server 2003, Standard Edition, Sharepoint, Office InfoPath 2003 and SQL Server 2005, Standard Edition. Microsoft SharePoint gives Aquatech its comprehensive, global document management solution, while Microsoft Office InfoPath offers an efficient and reliable electronic forms solution designed to streamline forms-driven business processes by using hand filling of the electronic forms stored on a Tablet PC.

The solution uses HP TC4200 Tablet PC and dynamic forms to gather, share, reuse and manage the information in the field. It also synchronizes it through Outlook and stores the documents in a central repository, categorizes the files, controls their versions and their edition and starts workflow processes, thus avoiding duplicate effort and costly errors. Today, when a contract is signed, all related documents are generated and available to stakeholders, improving collaboration and decision-making. Both users and the IT department are pleased that one location exists for employees to find the business data that is relevant to their specific needs.

For organizations like Aquatech, business success is indelibly linked with the cleanliness and accessibility of its data. If that information takes too long to get to the right employees, or is simply lost in the system, inefficiencies will occur in the business process, allowing competitors to seize an advantage in the marketplace.

Overcoming the obstacles that stand in the way of a well-organized information repository often requires patience and conviction on the part of both implementers and users, as well as a clear show of support from upper management. A proactive approach to keeping your information stored in a secure, accessible and structured environment can go a long way to ensuring bottom-line business success.