



Success Story: Federal Client

Objectives

- Increase budgeting efficiency
- Reduce requisition cycle time
- Reduce time for overhead, increase time for research



increased
budget efficiency

Challenge

Budgeting and time management go hand in hand. As both become increasingly crucial within research fields, a group of scientific labs within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), needed a new and improved way to perform laboratory equipment requisitions with simplicity, accuracy, and ease. With a mandate to perform life-saving research, NIH scientists needed an electronic system to reduce time and effort in generating, approving, and processing requisitions. The driving principle is simple: Less time spent on budgeting means more time for groundbreaking research.

In the previously decentralized environment, each lab fended for itself. Implementing a mix of spreadsheets, off-the-shelf software and database programs, the labs devised their own way of tracking and managing budget. After some time, finance administrators consulted TerpSys for help in compiling department-wide buying decisions.

Solution

TerpSys recognized the lab's core need: a centralized electronic and budget management system that complies with the NIH central purchasing and auditing requirements. The ideal system would allow real-time funding balances and would track the requisition activity of the branch, labs, and individual scientists. Using Apache Tomcat Server, STRUTS Framework, Java 2, and Oracle Database, TerpSys equipped BudgetWatch with:

- A quick, automated workflow environment for submission and approval of purchase requisitions.
- A customizable account setup interface to determine budget trigger points so that account managers are alerted to critical budget levels.
- A reporting tool to provide straight-line proforma monthly budget guidance to ensure effective budget usage.
- A convenient, searchable online catalog of purchased items to facilitate product ordering.
- A complete database of vendors to speed order-form creation.
- Detailed capturing of miscellaneous expenses with account categories and auto-notification to account owners.

Results

This is what the Administrative contact had to say about BudgetWatch:

"Prior to BudgetWatch, employees received manual hard copy budget report updates. Now employees are able to log into BudgetWatch at any time during the month to receive a real time update. In addition staff can submit purchase requests utilizing the BudgetWatch system. This has eliminated the need for hard copy signature approval."

decreased
cycle time



reduced
overhead

