

Success Story: ASP.NET 2.0 Application for Grant and Procurement Tracking

Summary:

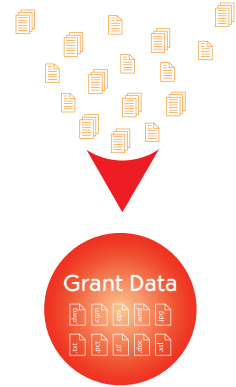
TerpSys[®] created an ASP.NET 2.0 application tied to the NOAA Grants Online system to allow NOAA staff to remotely access an executive dashboard with charts, graphs and a map-based graphical interface.

Client: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

NOAA not only studies and predicts changes in Earth's weather, but conserves and manages coastal and marine resources to meet America's economic, social, and environmental needs.

Objectives:

- Define the system requirements including personas, user stories and business rules
- Design user interface mockups for a system that provides users with easy access to grants information by state, congressional district and city
- Create a secure and accessible online system



Challenge

NOAA's Office of Finance and Administration (OFA) needed a reliable way to obtain summary information online pertaining to the agency's grants. The required tool had to be able to display such data by State, Congressional District and City for domestic grants, as well as by Country and City for foreign grants.

The client stipulated that the proposed solution had to be configured for ease of accessibility from both inside and outside of NOAA networks. The goal was for top-level staff, no matter their location, to be able to quickly prepare meaningful reports for meetings, particularly with Congressional Representatives. Of course, as with any government client, cost control was a major consideration, as was the need for a rapid development and deployment schedule.

Solution

Overall system design and implementation was a relatively quick process, with approximately seven months elapsing from the beginning of the requirements definition to the deployment of the first release of the system.

The process, which was conducted in close cooperation with the staff of NOAA's Administrative Systems Division, began with interviewing the key stakeholders and sponsors of the envisioned application with a view to defining requirements and specifications. We identified the key users of the system and the tasks they would need to perform, as well as the underlying data structures, sources and relationships.

Based on the requirements, TerpSys designed an appropriate, web-based user interface that would make the application simple, elegant, and easy to navigate. From there, our development team implemented the application in Microsoft ASP.NET 2.0 to take advantage of that platform's advanced visualization capabilities.

Results

- Ensured instant access to real-time NOAA grant reporting through any internet connection
- Developed intuitive and user-friendly dashboard application with multiple levels of reporting
- Created side-by-side grant comparison tool with high impact graphics and data export features
- A delighted customer:

"The [TerpSys] team has kept NOAA informed during the multiple phases completed, and [has] been available for project discussions and questions throughout the process. The project team is professional, dedicated to producing a high quality deliverable, and a pleasure to work with."

– Larry Sparks,
Chief,
NOAA Administrative Systems Division