

MS Reporting Services 2005 Integration with WSS 3.0

Client: A leader and trusted partner in providing comprehensive Portfolio Management Solutions

Location: USA

Client Description

The client is a market leader and trusted partner in providing comprehensive portfolio management solutions. The company's leading performance management platform, combines project and portfolio management software with adaptive best practices to enable better decision making and business accountability. The client's products are mentioned in Gartner's quadrant for PPM. BSI's Center of Excellence is an Offshore Development Center, since last 12 years, for the major product suites of the client.

Business Need

Many organizations suffer from having primitive or an incomplete understanding of the performance of their projects, services, and other IT investments. The client wanted to design the product such that it would disseminate information to every desktop through a tight integration with Microsoft Office and SharePoint. The product was also expected to generate immediate value with pre-built analytics and dashboards alongwith readiness for future needs with a flexible, extensible, OLAP-based design.

The client was looking out for a vendor with significant expertise on SQL Server Analysis Services and SharePoint Services.

Solution Offered

During the initial phase, a POC using two products (Dundas and Strategy Companion) was executed in order to ensure that the right technology was being used. Based on the evaluation report, the client selected Dundas OLAP components. In addition, the proposed integration of SQL Server Analysis Services and SharePoint was a key aspect for achieving the product objectives.

Subsequent to the evaluation, BSI set up a core team comprising of SharePoint and SQL Server Analysis Services experts. Customized Web Parts were built for the portal to display OLAP Views, interactive dashboards and implement adhoc reporting capabilities in the product. The web parts that were built were completely AJAX-enabled so as to provide better response time to the end users. This was tightly integrated with Microsoft Office 2003 and 2007 through customized add-ins.

The product was designed to be highly interactive and easy to use and enabled analysis of complex data sets through a familiar, intuitive user interface. OLAP reporting functionality and a highly interactive drill-down capability facilitated the users in easily understanding the current and trend-based business information. Built upon Microsoft SQL Server Analysis Services and Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services, the product puts a powerful decision-making capability onto every desktop across the enterprise. Decision makers could now access data sets through a variety of interfaces including SharePoint, Outlook, and Excel.

Benefits to the Client

- Drive Informed Action using interactive analytics and visualization of key business information
- MS Reporting Services 2005 integration with WSS 3.0 helped in generating immediate value with pre-built analytics and dashboards
- Reduced time to market due to adoption of framework technology like WSS
- Assisted the client in evolving the approach, design and implementation for localizing the product. The product is now available in 5 different languages (English, German, French, Spanish and Italian).

TOOLS / TECHNOLOGY

- Windows SharePoint Services 3.0
- .NET 3.5
- SQL Server 2005 Analysis Services
- Dundas OLAP Components
- Infragistics 2007 Vol 1

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