



LAW & REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT

Forms Assistant



PROBLEM

Field based reporting systems present some unique challenges to law and regulatory enforcement agencies. Form-based systems are notoriously labor-intensive and can be difficult to use in the high-stress field environment. Many field reporting systems require expensive, proprietary wireless communication environments that only large-scale agencies can afford. Others may output data collected in the field in proprietary formats, making integration with back-office systems difficult. Most field reporting systems are purpose-built, so they lack the flexibility required to implement new applications.

SOLUTION

Optimum Technology's Forms Assistant is a product that helps build customized field-based reporting systems that meet the unique needs of law and regulatory enforcement agencies. Forms Assistant provides a simple, intuitive interface on a Tablet PC that officials in the field can use with little or no training. Forms Assistant helps organize the data-collection process into a simple questionnaire that has been generated using a sophisticated rules-engine.

Forms Assistant provides the following functionality:

- **A Tablet-PC based field reporting client module** that enables the official to quickly select a questionnaire based on the specifics of their investigation and begin filling it out. Forms Assistant guides the user through an interview process that dynamically includes, excludes and alters the questions the user needs to answer, based on the answers the user has provided to prior questions. The user can save his/her work and return to it. A "form view" enables the user to see how the information entered by them populates the intended form. Once the Tablet-PC is connected to a secure wireless network, the user can upload their completed forms to the server, where they can be stored in flat-file or XML format, for importing into the appropriate back-office application.
- **An administrator's console** that helps manage a bank of interview/survey questions, domain value sets for encoded information, forms that are named collections of interview/survey questions, helpful hints for the Tablet-PC user and rules associated with each question on a form. The administrator's console also allows the administrator to associate an externally defined XML schema with a form, so that the information entered by the Tablet-PC user can be saved in the specified XML format.

Forms Assistant can be used in a mobile, disconnected mode or in a connected, server-based environment. It fully leverages the power of the Microsoft .NET platform as a multi-tier software application. Metadata is stored in the Microsoft SQL Database Engine (MSDE). Microsoft BizTalk Server 2006 may be used to orchestrate and manage the XML-based exchange of information with other systems.

For More Information

For more information about Microsoft products or services, call Microsoft Government at 202-895-2000. Microsoft's corporate sales information center can be reached at (800) 426-9400. To access information via the World Wide Web, go to <http://www.microsoft.com/government>.

Partner Overview

Solution Profile

Optimum Technology's Forms Assistant is a Tablet-PC based, highly functional and extremely flexible field-based reporting system that can be easily configured for a variety of field based reporting applications.

Line of Business

Law and regulatory enforcement agencies who need to efficiently collect incident reports, intelligence and other information in the field.

Solution Benefits

- Extremely easy to use in the field
- Tablet-PC based for maximum comfort and efficiency
- Simple questionnaires make for an efficient, non-threatening data collection mechanism
- Improve field reporting accuracy and timeliness
- Sophisticated administrator's console enables definition of complex, segmented forms
- Output flat file or XML
- Use in a variety of wireless environments

Software and Services

Microsoft® Windows XP - Tablet PC Edition
Microsoft® .NET framework
Microsoft® BizTalk Server 2006

Partner

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