



Customer: State of Washington
Web site: www.digitalarchives.wa.gov
Customer size: 6 million citizens
Country or region: United States
Industry: Government

Customer Profile

The State of Washington has 6 million people and more than 3,000 local and statewide agencies that serve them. The Washington State Digital Archives is a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

Software and Services

- Microsoft® Visual Studio® 2005
- Microsoft Windows Server System™
 - Microsoft BizTalk® Server 2004
 - Microsoft Host Integration Server
 - Microsoft SQL Server™ 2005
 - Microsoft Windows Server™ 2003
- Services
 - Microsoft Services
- Technologies
 - Microsoft ASP.NET
 - Microsoft Clustering Services
 - Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0
 - Web Services Enhancements for Microsoft .NET

For more information about other Microsoft customer successes, please visit:
www.microsoft.com/casestudies

Small Team Uses New Tools to Enhance First-of-a-Kind Digital Archives

“Microsoft Visual Studio 2005 Team System will help us continue doing good work on the State of Washington Digital Archives with a very small development team.”

Adam Jansen, Digital Archivist, State of Washington

Business Needs

Less than a year after launching the first software solution in the United States designed to archive the historical records of an entire state, developers of the Washington State Digital Archives approached a major enhancement with two goals in mind:

- Streamline the original code base, which was built mostly on theoretical models.
- Support a database anticipated to grow from 30 gigabytes to 10 terabytes by late 2006, at a rate determined not by the development group but by external agencies.

Solution

To reduce the code base and boost functionality, developers replaced hand-coded routines with built-in capabilities from the Microsoft® Visual Studio® 2005 development system—primarily encrypted URLs that prevent unauthorized data extraction, and powerful personalization technologies such as ASP.NET 2.0 Master Pages and Membership application programming interfaces.

To support database growth, developers used features in the Microsoft SQL Server™ 2005 database management system such as enhanced horizontal and vertical data partitioning, robust support for native XML, and full-text searching and indexing.

Benefits

In just two months, the three-and-a-half-person development group released the upgrade, which offers the following benefits:

- 20 percent smaller code base for higher performance and easier maintenance
- Highly personalized access for more-welcoming user experience
- Easier, faster, and more effective searching of multiple terabytes of data

Developers also have installed Visual Studio 2005 Team System to use for delivering business case analyses, technical documentation, and greater traceability while maintaining a small development team.

Microsoft®