



Microsoft Enterprise Solution Case Studies by Catapult Systems



Catapult Systems

The Microsoft Consulting Company

Catapult project services create improved system integration and performance, and better IT planning

Microsoft offers enterprise solutions that streamline IT operations without sacrificing functionality or strategic alignment. When planned and implemented by an expert like Catapult, the result enables your organization to work faster and more effectively; manage processes and business partners more efficiently; and communicate with fresh information delivered in a meaningful context. Read on to learn how five companies took advantage of these benefits.

Financial Services Company Improves Business Intelligence

Texas' largest holding company required faster access to more accurate information across branches and areas. Generating rollup reports of information like new accounts, revenues or payroll required departments of upwards of five workers, took many weeks to complete, and were often populated with unreliable data which stemmed from disparate sources in varied data store types, a result of merger and acquisition activity.

Catapult solved this reporting dilemma with a BI solution including data integration and a data warehouse. First, the widespread data sources were integrated. Catapult built a data integration layer to extract, cleanse and transform data into load files for the information warehouse. Then, Catapult built the information warehouse layer which allowed users to gain insight into their areas of responsibility. Important in the warehouse design was the definition of databases that provide information on confirmed dimensions that are true across the whole enterprise.

Results

- Improved operational and strategic decision-making and collaboration across the enterprise.
- Clearer discernment into new marketplace insights and tactics.
- Faster identification of potential shifts in competitive strategy.
- Enhanced employee communications and job satisfaction resulting from a greater sense of empowerment.

Automobile Finance Company Enhances Project Management

This national consumer automobile finance company is a leading provider of finance programs that cover the entire sub-prime spectrum. Its business was growing, and its IT projects had grown larger in scope, duration and complexity. The company required more visibility into the progress and performance of these more expansive and complicated projects.

Catapult worked with the IT staff to achieve consensus around requirements, then implemented a robust Enterprise Project Management solution built on Microsoft Office Project Server. It was deployed rapidly, configured according to the company's business requirements.

Results

- Fast adoption across the organization due to use of familiar interfaces and functionality.
- Future growth capability as the solution is scalable and enterprise-ready.
- Increased positive perception of the IT group by the rest of the organization.

Oil and Gas Giant Plans Projects Better

One of the world's leading energy companies required the streamlining of the project management process surrounding well prospect maturation and planning in the Gulf of Mexico, and workover and completions, drilling, and contract management in Indonesia. These disparate and complex processes required excessive project planning and management, and made consistent project performance measurement challenging.

Catapult implemented a EPM solution on Microsoft Project, developing custom project templates for each affected area, and integrated portfolio management reports. Additionally, Catapult redesigned each of the project management processes and trained the company's users on the system's use, as well as on Project Management best practices.

Results

- Significant reduction in project planning across multiple disciplines.

- Consistent approach to measuring project performance.
- Ability to leverage best practices through project templates.
- Timely decision-making by Executive Management.
- Formal accountability for project deliverables and work packages.
- High visibility to project schedule delays.

Educational Materials Provider Makes e-Commerce More Productive

A top provider of educational materials had multiple Web sites, developed over time to adapt to the company's growth, that provided e-commerce capabilities. These sites were hosted in different facilities across the US and Canada, and the company was wholly dependent on the their service providers' abilities to update, change and maintain Web site content, which was done using various content management systems. There were two different e-commerce engines in use, both homegrown tools created by outside developers. In total, there were five different vendors supporting the group of Web sites, with one primary vendor using custom-grown its tools and system. Clearly, the company's needs had outstripped the scalability of the system.

Catapult consolidated over a dozen disparate sites onto one platform and single management point. Using Windows Server, and the Microsoft .NET platform, the Catapult solution brought all the sites onto a central multi-tiered server farm. Further, Catapult established standard navigation and general site use was established, and developed unique branding for each site. Finally, e-commerce was introduced to many of the sites, all using a central product data store and fulfillment system..

Results

- Increased site traffic
- Significant uptick in in product sales

- Enhanced brand recognition
- Reduction in costs and resources required

Energy Company Improves Plans IT Work Management

This leading natural gas compression services company needed to streamline and add controls into its IT Work Management process. Getting a birds-eye view of work in process by IT was challenging for the department's management. This led to problems meeting responding to new requests, as priorities were often decided by the individual performing the work. In addition, it made staffing forecasts difficult to produce. And other departments did not have visibility into the IT's activity.

Catapult developed a Work Management system that leverages the Microsoft EPM solution and Microsoft InfoPath. The system enables UCI employees to submit requests to IT using InfoPath. The comprehensive workflow that Catapult built in to the system then has these requests sponsored by those with financial responsibility, evaluated by IT for cost and schedule impacts, and reviewed for approval or rejection by IT management. Once approved, work requests can be tracked by employees as the work is taking place.

Results

- Enhanced ability to audit and search for required information
- Improved control by IT management over how and when work is performed across the department
- Ensured quality and consistency of the Production environment
- Better staffing forecasts to meet increasing workloads
- Better service to IT's internal customers



How can we help you?

Contact us at 1-800-528-6248 or info@CatapultSystems.com