



# Microsoft .NET Application Development Case Studies by Catapult Systems



**Catapult Systems**

The Microsoft Consulting Company

# .NET applications enable companies to save money, improve reporting, and effectively serve distributed offices

*The Microsoft .NET framework connects information, people, systems and devices through software. Catapult .NET engagements integrate well-architected, supportable solutions into your mission-critical systems. We provide a full range of services to create reliable, extensible, high-quality, custom applications that achieve your specific business goals. Read on to learn how four companies took advantage of these benefits.*

## **Energy Company Saves Money on Mobile Application**

This leading supplier of products and services to oil and gas, petrochemical and industrial industries wanted to change the mobile solution it used for receiving inspection and delivery process of bits and small parts. To date, the company had used Clear Orbit software with an Oracle back end. Clear Orbit did not allow custom modification, and with an Oracle upgrade in the wings, the company decided it would be better served with the application written in Windows CE.

Catapult worked with end users to gather requirements, then built the solution to meet the company's needs in Windows CE on an Intermec CK30 handheld device, built the integration with Oracle, and tested the new solution against both versions of Oracle in use.

### **Results**

- Cost savings realized from not paying the annual Clear Orbit fees
- Increased flexibility due to the ability to make modifications as company needs change
- Interoperability with new versions of Oracle for increased functionality

## **Engineering Consultancy Cleans Up Reporting**

An engineering and environmental consulting firm assists

businesses with the Texas Risk Reduction Program to determine chemical clean-up levels that are most cost-effective and meet state environmental compliance. Due to the legislative requirements, it is critical that the firm's reporting is not only accurate but also timely. Unfortunately, the firm's in-place reporting system was slow and labor-intensive.

Working in Microsoft .NET and leveraging Microsoft .NET Web Services and Microsoft SQL Server, Catapult developed a new reporting solution to speed the process. Comprehensive and easy to use, this new system drastically cut down the reporting timeframe from two weeks or more to just 3 days.

### **Results**

- Reporting is more accurate with easy-to-update chemical information modules
- Shorter reporting time increases customer satisfaction
- The client is able to take on more business

## **Student Housing Provider Administers Distributed Offices**

This student housing provider needed the ability to standardize the processes and systems surrounding leasing and marketing activities at its many properties, and required the ability to run roll-up reporting related to these activities.

Catapult's Web-based system addressed the company's needs to have the day-to-day leasing and marketing activities at all property managed efficiently and consistently. Property office staff have access to the right forms, and tenants and prospective tenants have the option to receive documents via email, saving time and money. The solution is also used in the corporate office for reporting on the administration of all properties.

This ASP.NET application, written in C#, accesses a Microsoft SQL Server backend database. Microsoft SQL Reporting Services is also implemented for reporting and for over-the-Web printing of formatted documents, such as leases and contracts. Finally, it uses Microsoft Exchange Server to automatically deliver marketing and administrative emails to residents and potential residents.

#### **Results**

- Increased positive perception of the housing provider by its tenants
- Improved communication between property office staff and prospective tenants
- Enhanced oversight into daily operations by the corporate office across all properties

#### **Energy Company Automates Reporting to Increase Customer Satisfaction**

This energy industry engineering service, consulting and software firm wished to improve the quality and timeliness of the reports its engineers produced for its clients. Known for providing the highest levels of service, the company wanted to ensure its reporting reflected its commitment to quality and customer satisfaction.

Catapult developed a solution to address these concerns, designing it to deliver qualitative improvements in project-specific data and text, and company-wide improvements in the consistency and style of all reports generated. The solution stores project data and provides management tools to edit, maintain and report on the data collected. Using a Windows desktop application Catapult

developed in Microsoft .NET 2.0, engineer can enter, import and manage the data captured for a particular field project. Using Microsoft Word with a Visual Studio Tools for Office-enabled document template, the engineer can automatically produce the standard elements of a Pinnacle Report, allowing the engineer to focus on his analysis and recommendations to his customer rather than the tedium of manually editing a Word document. The solution is based on Microsoft Office 2003 and Microsoft 2005 Visual Studio Tools for Office; supporting these tools is the freely redistributable Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express database and custom Microsoft .Net 2.0 code developed by Catapult Systems. The design is specifically implemented to support a generic model with an initial specific project types and report templates, greatly minimizing the cost of extending the application to support other project types or report templates.

#### **Results**

- Improved customer perception of company deliverables
- A 400% improvement in the time required to produce a readable, organized reports
- Efficient use of time of a highly-paid workforce of engineers
- Scalability for future reporting needs
- The capacity to quickly extend the data management functionality to support different business propositions



# How can we help you?

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