

Partner Heroes' Stories



Excellent Management Limited Improves Security and Performance of the Travel Industry's Leading ERP Solution Suite

Overview

Country: Hong Kong SAR, China
Industry: IT solutions and services

Customer Profile

Established in 1996, the Hong Kong based Excellent Management Limited (XML) is the leading technology solutions provider in Asia Pacific. One of her shareholders, Abacus International is the Asia-Pacific's leading facilitator that backed by consortium of major national carriers including CX, SQ and the US based Sabre Holdings.

Situation

XML wants to add new features and improved security to its market-leading enterprise resource planning suite while helping its in-house developers be more productive.

Solution

Deploying Windows Server® 2008 and SQL Server® 2008, XML is leveraging Terminal Services Gateway and Internet Information Services 7.0. in Windows Server and the enhanced Reporting Services in SQL Server.

Benefits

- Support Windows Server 2008: secure remote access and fast, secure web services
- Support SQL Server 2008: customized reports
- Virtual testing and simpler administration for developers

"Windows Server® 2008 makes remote access simpler to set up and administer and reduces exposure to security risks."

Aldous Yuen, Director/Technical Consultant, Excellent Management Limited

Situation

Excellent Management Limited (XML) created Abacus PowerSuite more than a decade ago. Built on Microsoft® Windows Server® and SQL Server®, it is now the leading enterprise resource planning (ERP) solution for the travel industry in Asia, with more than 4,500 online users across 12 countries.

With the launch of Windows Server 2008 and SQL Server 2008, XML is looking to enhance Abacus PowerSuite, specifically to allow more customized reporting and to improve the security of its browser-based point-of-sale module, PowerConnect. It also wants to support its in-house development team to take advantage of the .NET Framework 3.5 and deploy a virtual testing environment.

Solution

XML is leveraging several new technologies in Windows Server 2008, including Terminal Services Gateway (TS Gateway) and Internet Information Services 7.0 (IIS 7.0). TS Gateway allows remote Abacus PowerSuite users to securely connect to ERP applications residing on their corporate network, while IIS 7.0 is helping make the PowerConnect web server engine more secure. XML is also deploying SQL Server 2008 to allow more customizable reporting in Abacus PowerSuite.

"Bringing us development flexibility and security enhancements, the new Windows Server and SQL Server technologies are helping us continue to improve our pioneering IT solutions for the fast-evolving travel industry," says Aldous Yuen, Director/ Technical Consultant, XML.



"Online security is vital to customers' confidence in our clients' web-based booking services."

Aldous Yuen, Director/Technical Consultant, Excellent Management Limited

Benefits

Secure access to centralized apps

Responding to a need to give access to centralized ERP resources to branch offices and agents, XML is enabling presentation virtualization in Abacus PowerSuite.

"Using TS Gateway to establish a secure encrypted connection between remote users on the Internet and Abacus PowerSuite applications on the internal network, system administrators don't have to set up a Virtual Private Network or compromise their firewall to give their users access to centralized applications," explains Yuen. "Windows Server 2008 makes remote access simpler to set up and administer and reduces exposure to security risks."

Fast and secure web-based booking

XML is also leveraging IIS 7.0 in Windows Server 2008 to customize PowerConnect, which helps travel agents and tour companies streamline operations and allow online booking.

Says Yuen: "Online security is vital to customers' confidence in our clients' web-based booking services. The modular architecture of IIS 7.0 gives us a way to integrate IIS and ASP.NET request-processing pipelines and add and remove IIS 7.0 modules to improve the performance and security of the PowerConnect web server engine."

XML has now successfully completed user acceptance testing for an enhanced web applications platform for one of Asia's most popular on-line holiday booking services. Based on IIS 7.0, the new platform has improved download speed and system security.

Improved reporting services

"Abacus PowerSuite currently supports more than 200 standard report formats but this is not enough to meet customers' needs in the fast-changing travel industry. Enhancements in SQL Server 2008 Reporting Services mean that Abacus PowerSuite users will soon be able to easily create customized reports to help them make better business decisions," Yuen says.

More productive developers

In addition to improving XML's top-selling solutions, using the new Microsoft infrastructure is also helping its developers be more productive.

They are using server virtualization to create a virtual test environment. "In the past, to customize applications for different clients, we would need to physically recreate their IT environment for testing purposes. Now we can do it all much more cost-effectively in Windows Server 2008," Yuen recalls.

Yuen's team is also finding that system administration is simpler in the Microsoft environment, saving time and effort.

"Our developers are embracing the .NET Framework because it gives us flexibility in programming language choice, more powerful technology, and better support," he concludes.