



Custom Software Development

Case Study

Florida Direct Certification System (FDC)

Statewide administration of National School Lunch Program

For Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, USA



Client Profile

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) is responsible to administer the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) at the state level by establishing agreements with schools that meet USDA requirements. NSLP allows students attending participating public and nonprofit schools and residential child care institutions in Florida the opportunity to receive nutritious meals every school day by providing a per meal reimbursement to the school/institution; and incorporates wellness policies to promote healthy eating habits and physical activity in the school environment.



Challenge

Administration of this program was conducted manually, which required the certification of students based on the economic condition of the Florida families. The student enrollment information was received from registered food sponsors, and income related data was received from Department of Children and Families (DCF). Certification of student record will enable the student to claim the free, reduced-price or paid meals in the school. The whole certification process, as it was conducted manually, used to take almost a month for a student record.

The department wanted a full-fledged system which can improve the efficiency of existing business processes, and certify the students in timely manner. The new system was expected to also provide the detailed reports to keep the checks and balances, as manual reporting efforts required thousands of hours.



ArnAmy presented the conceptualization of the solution in front of FDACS management and OIT (Office of Information Technology), and convinced the NSLP program officials about our proposed solution. After being awarded with the contract, ArnAmy started working towards extremely aggressive deadline, as the first phase was supposed to roll out in six months.

ArnAmy collaborated with FDACS resources to conduct the series of JAR & JAD sessions to come up with the robust application design and slick UI design. After designs were approved, the team started working on the implementation plan which included features like role based application security, automated student matching and certification, Agency to Agency data transfer, variety of reports for NSLP administration, Audit trail, and self-service help.

Our diligently written student matching routine decreased certification processing times by more than 29 days, as now it takes around 8 hours only to certify a student record against the



data provided by DCF. Because of this, the state of Florida currently boasts 100% matching rate. Up-to-date NSLP participation data via customized reporting significantly released administrative burden on Local Education Agencies (LEAs). ArnAmy developed and delivered a secure, custom built web application on-time and within the budget, which currently serves all K-12 students in Florida via 276 different Sponsors.

Since then, the numerous enhancements have been requested by FDACS and executed successfully by the ArnAmy team. Exemplary teamwork, the establishment of a true strategic partnership with the customer, accurate understanding of the customer's business and goals, exhaustive requirements gathering and scope definition, and a high level of technical knowledge and execution plan played a key role in the successful execution of this system, like many other systems implemented by team ArnAmy.



Operating Systems: Windows Server 2012

Hardware: Dell Servers, Dell EMC SAN Storage, Firewall

Database: SQL Server 2012

Technologies: Microsoft.Net, C#, ASP.Net, Windows Communication Foundation (WCF), Internet Information Services 7.5, ASP.Net State Service, T-SQL, SQL Server Reporting Services (SSRS), SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS)



Benefits

- Completely bug free program, which kept running during the whole period of Service and Maintenance contract without a single penny expended on bug-fixing
- Over 90,000 additional eligible students were identified in the first few months of application use
- Recognized as **the best** in the nation during the May 2014 USDA site visit
- Developed using state of the art technology while featuring upload functionality to accommodate all food sponsors and sites across the state of Florida
- User Interface following all the ADA compliances mandated by Florida statutes

Why ArnAmy?

Many of the world's successful organizations rely on ArnAmy to deliver competitive business solutions. ArnAmy combines rich technical expertise, industry's best proven practices, and dynamic workforce metrics to provide excellent technology solutions.

To know more about ArnAmy, visit www.ArnAmy.com

Why Not?

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