

Sequence

Microsoft
.NET Enterprise Servers



Solution Overview

Company Profile

NDS is the leading global supplier of open end-to-end digital pay-TV solutions for the secure delivery of entertainment and information to television set-top boxes and IP devices.

Situation

NDS uses Sequence and Microsoft Reporting Services to provide time recording, budget and project management solutions, to more than 2,000 employees in more than 10 locations worldwide. Over 800 employees in Israel use the system on a daily basis

Solution

The Sequence is a rapid development platform for Business Process applications based on .NET architecture. Microsoft SQL reporting services (MRS) is a powerful reports and query platform. Together with the .net framework and visual studio, PNMsoft implemented an end-to-end worldwide global solution for recording time, managing budgets, and monitoring for managers and financial personnel.

Benefits:

NDS's applications are based on SEQUENCE & MRS, which provide real time control with budget projects as well as a global online/offline time-recording solution.

Technologies/Products Used:

- Sequence
- Microsoft SQL Reporting Services
- Microsoft SQL Database
- Microsoft SQL replication & synchronization services
- Visual Studio.NET
- Windows 2003 with Active Directory
- Browsers

Hardware

- Central Server: 2 processor Enterprise Server
- Regional servers: 2-processor servers, upgradeable to 4

A Leading global supplier of open end-to-end digital pay-TV solutions, sets a new standard for budget, time recording, and project management, using PNMsoft's Sequence and Microsoft Servers

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With more than 51.8 million smart cards and set top boxes deployed, over 45 leading pay TV operators as clients around the world, more than 2000 employees in all 5 continents (over 800 in Israel), and as part of the News Corp group, NDS management required better budgeting, time recording, and a solution for project management, in order to improve service and to optimize financial operations. A solution based on the PNMsoft's Sequence and Microsoft Reporting Services (MRS) was implemented on a global scale - bringing up-to-the-minute (real-time) operational and financial information to business managers as well as to every NDS employee. Up and running with millions of records annually, NDS's application exemplifies both PNMsoft and Microsoft's architecture cost-effectiveness.



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Company Overview

NDS is the leading global supplier of open end-to-end digital pay-TV solutions for the secure delivery of entertainment and information to television set-top boxes and IP devices.

NDS enables broadcasters, network TV operators, and content providers to profit from the deployment of digital TV technologies including innovative solutions for [personal TV](#), [interactivity](#), [secure broadband](#), [home networks](#), and content on the go.

Around the world, NDS [VideoGuard](#)® conditional access systems have service revenues of approximately \$20 billion, and these systems are in use in over 51 million digital boxes.

With headquarters in the UK, and with offices worldwide, NDS employs over 2,000 people (800 in the Israeli office) and continues to make a major commitment to R&D, with over 750 employees dedicated to pioneering development work at centers in Israel, China, India, France, and the UK.

NDS ('NDS') is traded on the NASDAQ and Euronext Brussels stock exchanges. Its largest shareholder is News Corporation, the global media and entertainment company.

Business Challenge

Prior to implementing the new solution, NDS managed local systems in different regions, but lacked a central point of view of the whole organization, with no cross-regional reporting and no global view of the projects and the activities. NDS was looking for a global, corporate time recording solution, with project management, budgeting and high-end monitoring and reporting capabilities. As a rapidly evolving organization, NDS needed a flexible and scalable solution. NDS required a single global system, whereby employees can record the time they have spent on all business-related activities during their working day. The objectives of querying and executing reports from the recorded information retrieved were (1) to ensure that time is spent on the most appropriate activities, (2) to produce accurate customer invoices, (3) to use historic metrics for future bid and proposal work, and (4) to make decisions and evaluations during the project's life cycle as well as prepare end-of-project reviews. In addition, NDS needed a management tool for, Improving estimation abilities. High requirements were set for performance, bandwidth constraints, ease of use, globalization, etc. Security and role-based functionality were critical and a special mechanism for controlling the workflow of profile-based users was needed.

Solution

After evaluating alternative solutions, a decision was made to implement a solution using the Sequence for managing the process and workflow, Microsoft Reporting Services (MRS) for reports and queries, and Visual Studio.net for creating custom input forms and customized functionality. PNMSOFT was chosen as the solution provider. After meeting the requirements, and going through the design, development, and testing stages, we installed the system on several servers in a central location at the NDS facilities. Existing networks between all NDS worldwide offices were used to run the browser-based system. In the future an offline module will be deployed for field personnel without online connections to the NDS network. The SQL replication mechanism will be used to synchronize the central servers with the local regional servers (such as those in Israel) for off-pick hours synchronization. This method enables achieving top performance for massive reports containing a large number of records. All input and administrative functions were controlled by several workflow applications, as well as the alerts, logging, email-based functions, and user profiles. Microsoft Reporting Services (MRS) was tightly

NDS Feedback

"Who is responsible for the new system? I want to express my compliments for a job well done. The only training materials I have looked at are the instructions for installing the tool. I went in this morning and it performed without a hitch, and it was intuitively obvious how to use..."

"WOW ! Just had my Time Recording Training and I've been blown away. What a fantastic system!!!"

"I was especially impressed with being able to print out all of the different reports and even set up my own..."

"Well done indeed! As I mentioned in Barcelona, I've not seen a system launch go so smoothly...ever."

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integrated into the system, enabling the rapid production of reports for managers, and the rapid design of reports for power users.

Why did NDS Choose PNMsoft's solution based on Microsoft Servers?

Performance, ease of use, security, and price, dominated the selection process by NDS. Other important factors included flexibility for future modifications, server synchronization capabilities, minimal training required for users, workflow capabilities, and more. NDS's system was considered critical because of its sensitive information, so both quality and security requirements were mandatory. As an expert BPM and workflow vendor, and a senior Microsoft Partner responsible for collaboration and information worker competency, PNMsoft staff possessed the skills and experience needed to successfully deliver the solution. PNMsoft international support for NDS sites was also evaluated. As part of the forefront of technology, the Sequence has provided the solid solution needed for such workflow functionality, whereas Microsoft Reporting Services provided the off-the-shelf functionality needed for the high performance queries and reports module. Visual Studio.net, together with .net framework robustness, was a perfect match for the development of customized functionalities and extensions for both platforms.

For More Information

For more information about Microsoft products or services, call the Microsoft Sales Information Centre at To access information via the World Wide Web, go to: <http://www.microsoft.com>

For more information on PNMsoft products or services visit their web site at: <http://www.PNMsoft.com>

For more information on NDS products or services visit their web site at: <http://www.nds.com>

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