



Secure Online Data Consolidation Yields Efficient Audit & Compliance Reporting



Overview

Country or Region: United States

Industry: Manufacturing

Customer Profile

To assist its members in reducing costs and improving efficiency, the Coca-Cola Bottlers' Association acts as a servicing arm and agent on behalf of participating Bottlers to meet their needs in numerous areas, including procurement, employee benefits, insurance programs and retirement plans.

Business Need

To improve auditing functions and to meet financial compliance requirements, The Coca-Cola Bottlers' Association System needed the ability to securely access data and collect financial data as well.

Solution

The Coca-Cola Bottlers' Association, along with the expertise of the IA team, Microsoft technology, and NSPI Microsoft Hosted Solutions created a web-portal to be used for the collection of financial data.

Benefits

- Enhanced data integration
- Standardization and accuracy
- Expedited reporting and data analysis
- Improved efficiency and decision making
- Reduced costs

"The Solution put in place by Innovative Architects has eliminated about 6-8 weeks of a full time resource who was manually consolidating data into the required reports. The bottlers are now able to input online, save their data, and come back to it on their own time. It has made it easier for all of us with much less stress during the deadline. We have received very positive feedback from the bottlers around how much time they are saving. The solution has exceeded our expectations."

*Ann F. Burton
C.F.O.*

The Coca-Cola Bottlers' Association

The Coca-Cola Bottlers' Association (CCBA, a division of Coca-Cola Enterprises) was established in 1914. The 21st century finds the Association providing an ever-increasing array of products and services to its membership. To assist its members in reducing costs and improving efficiency, the Association acts as a servicing arm and agent on behalf of participating Bottlers to meet their needs in numerous areas, including procurement, employee benefits, insurance programs and retirement plans.

The Coca-Cola Bottler's Association was using Microsoft Excel to track financial information across 26 different spreadsheets with each spreadsheet containing around 300 fields of data. This system required manual entry that left room for input errors around data that was critical to the success of their association. Being a publicly traded company, this was a large problem when it came to auditing and meeting financial compliance requirements and required labor intensive, manual quality assurance.

Solution

The Coca-Cola Bottlers' Association, along with the expertise of the Innovative Architects team, Microsoft technology, and NSPI Microsoft Hosted Solutions created a web-portal to be used for the collection of financial data. This allowed employees the ability to securely access data any time, from any location in a secure web-based environment.

The hosted solution also meant the project was quicker to market, which made for little interruption. Microsoft Hosted Solutions empower organizations like the Coca-Cola Bottlers' Association and their employees to communicate and collaborate more efficiently and securely at any time at an affordable price.



For More Information

For more information about this custom software solution, call the Innovative Architects Sales Information Center at **770.623.5734** or online at www.InnovativeArchitects.com.

For more information about Microsoft products and services, call the Microsoft Sales Information Center at (800) 426-9400. To access information online, go to: www.microsoft.com

Software and Services

- Microsoft Office System
- Microsoft Office Professional Edition 2003
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003
- Microsoft SQL Server 2008
- Microsoft .NET 3.5
- Microsoft Hosted Solutions

Partners

- Innovative Architects
- NSPI
- Microsoft

Benefits

- Eliminates manual entry and input errors
- Increased employee efficiency and time saved
- Ability to meet auditing and compliance requirements
- Data is able to assist with business decisions more effectively
- Easy to access and maintain
- Secure web-based environment
- Reduced maintenance costs
- One consolidated database

Using the new FFS system, the CCBA team has enhanced data integration, standardization, and accuracy; expedited reporting and data analysis; improved efficiency and decision making; and reduced costs.

Enhanced Data Integration, Standardization, and Accuracy

In the past, critical information resided in various data sources, and the data was compiled, formatted, and managed independently. The new solution delivers a standard, consistent way to create and manage data, as well as a central repository for storing and maintaining it. The new solution provides much better control of information and operations. In addition, the team was able to push relevant data to various business units, instead of pulling it from them and having to scrub what they received.

Because CCBA now has a standard tool set and methodology for creating and tracking information, data accuracy has improved. The FFS application running on Microsoft SQL has greatly reduced the number of human errors that used to hinder the handwritten, manual data entry and information transfer processes of the past.

Expedited Reporting and Improved Data Analysis

Through the use of SQL Server Reporting Services, CCBA reporting is now much faster and more efficient. What used to take weeks to create, approve, and distribute can now be done in a matter of hours. The submission, storage, and distribution of all reports occur instantaneously; the variables are the amount of time that it takes a bottling division to complete a report and to review and approve that report.

Because the time between data acquisition and report submission is now streamlined, data analysis has vastly improved. The corporate financial personnel are now analyzing data that is more timely and accurate, and therefore more relevant. The fact that they are now able to analyze data that is days old versus weeks old assists their team a great deal.

Improved Efficiency and Decision Making

Efficiency has improved across the board. With the FFS solution, CCBA now perform their duties faster and with more accuracy. Perhaps most importantly, the FFS solution has helped improve decision making. With a uniform tool set, data consistency, immediate reporting, and more timely data analysis, CCBA can enact quicker solutions to field problems and conduct faster system assessments.