

Indiana INTERNnet Case Study



Web-based internship clearinghouse connects students and employers and helps Indiana retain its college graduates.

Overview

Working in collaboration with business, government and higher education, the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce developed Indiana INTERNnet, an initiative designed to reverse the loss of Indiana's college graduates by linking students to employers through internship and experiential learning programs. Many internship and cooperative educational programs in the state were under-utilized, depriving Indiana employers of a powerful tool for recruiting new employees and reversing the "brain drain" of recent graduates.

Challenge

The organization, www.indianaintern.net, sought to provide a web-based internship resource for universities, students and employers throughout the state of Indiana. With a proven track record in building custom, highly scalable e-commerce and e-government solutions, Quest was engaged to implement this web-based solution to retain students.

Solution

With users expected from a broad public spectrum, the system is available via the Internet, accessible from any browser and easy to use. With high demand anticipated, a highly scalable, multi-tier application with high-performance search capability was developed to ensure adequate service levels and retention of clientele visiting the site. Stakeholders were involved in planning to ensure their needs were met and that the complex process was encapsulated in easy-to-use software. Quest utilized advanced application design and development techniques. Use case analysis and UML modeling encouraged early and continuous stakeholder involvement in the design of the system.

Results

Upon its launch, nearly 300 employers, and hundreds of students immediately embraced Indiana INTERNnet. Presently, Indiana INTERNnet works in partnership with all 65 Indiana colleges and universities offering more than 700 internship positions and more than 1,400 students in its online resume database. Indiana INTERNnet continues to grow an educated workforce, reducing the cost of hiring, improving university job placement, and assisting students in finding high-paying jobs in their home state is certain to have a long-term impact on Indiana's economy.

Technology

A distributed 3-tier application was developed using Visual Basic, COM+, ASP, VBScript and JavaScript. In addition, advanced search and matching capabilities were built onto a Microsoft SQL Server 2000 database hosted on a reliable, open Windows 2000 Server platform.