

Centralized transportation software helps company automate invoicing and capture more logistical costs.

ADESA



ADESA, of Carmel, Indiana, is one of the largest vehicle redistribution companies in North America with nearly 11,000 employees and more than 130 facilities.

Overview

ADESA moves thousands of used vehicles through wholesale auctions each week and provides remarketing services that extend to titling, mechanical services, financing and more. The company sought a centralized system to help manage transportation logistics of vehicles to and from auctions.

Challenge

Many of ADESA's 61 sites utilized a localized Microsoft Access database to manage transportation logistics. While the existing system met basic needs, it didn't integrate well with ADESA's inventory and financial systems to support automatic billing of customers or the approval of transporter invoices. It also didn't provide management with the ability to collectively view, analyze and report on transportation logistics and costs.

A centralized, enterprise transportation system managed and supported by the corporate IT department would integrate with key ADESA systems, enable additional functionality and provide a tool to standardize processes used across the organization for greater efficiency and consistency. It would allow ADESA employees to track the pick-up and delivery of vehicles, pay any subcontractors involved and charge for those services.

Solution

Quest delivered a custom, web-based application that provides users with the tools to manage transportation services through a centralized transportation system. Quest provided several services including requirements gathering, business design, technical design, software development, implementation and training to the support staff. To meet the project's aggressive schedule, Quest followed the ICONIX process and generated code from UML models to expedite the construction effort.

The transportation management application provides rich functionality and enforces ADESA's updated business processes. With intuitive data entry and logical navigation, users can easily search and maintain customers, vehicles and trips, set up customer deliveries and view reports. Management can use the application to manage transportation locations, auction sites, transporters, drivers, vehicles, rates, zones and contacts.

Results

ADESA has realized new efficiencies as redundant tasks performed across the organization have been centralized in the corporate IT department. With more consistent, detailed data, ADESA can now accurately calculate costs instead of charging flat fees or no fees for vehicle transportation. As a result, ADESA is able to collect from brokers, dealers and other parties their full share of transportation costs.





What's more, because the transportation management application integrates with the inventory management and financial applications, much of the invoicing process has been automated. The application incorporates a secure, reliable and flexible architecture so it can be easily supported, enhanced or upgraded as necessary to quickly meet changing needs.

Technology

The mobile application hosts a Windows smart client application written in C# and deployed using Microsoft's ClickOnce technology. The web application was written using the web client software factory. Both applications share a common web service layer built with WCF and an SQL 2008 backend. The design incorporates Microsoft's Disconnected Service Agent and ADO.net sync services for offline application services.

About Quest

Quest, an Indiana based company, is a leader in custom software development, software management, IT consulting, support services and government solutions. We satisfy the full range of application needs through comprehensive life cycle services, connecting information, systems, people and processes. Our expertise has resulted in successful mission-critical applications that align business software with business strategy.

Quest's status as a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner, successful projects and satisfied clients attest to our ability to provide unique solutions to complex business problems.

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