

Powerful and Flexible Automated Reports

Oregon Legislative Information Systems (OLIS)

SOLUTIONS IN ACTION

THE CHALLENGE

OLIS was migrating to a new Oracle development platform and needed a new publishing system. The system would need to handle many different publications and reports. The solution would need to be flexible, powerful and efficient.

THE SOLUTION

An automated publishing system built on Miramo™ by Datazone and Adobe® FrameMaker®, with implementation support from Axial InfoSolutions, Inc.

THE BENEFITS

- Flexible output format capabilities to PDF and other electronic formats
- Easy and seamless integration with Oracle enabling users to enter parameters for report output and destination
- Ease of use moves process control from developers to end users
- More control for users in the proofing process and for report distribution
- Faster implementation of new reports

THE TOOLS

- Datazone's Miramo™
- Adobe® FrameMaker®
- Adobe® Acrobat®

THE SOLUTION PROVIDER

Axial InfoSolutions, Inc.
Automated Publishing Solutions /
Authorized Miramo Reseller

www.axialinfo.com
www.miramo.com
www.adobe.com

New, powerful publishing system automates all print publications that are defined by dynamic data and require high quality output.

The Oregon State Legislative Information Systems (OLIS) provides information technology support to the Oregon State Legislature. This IT support includes PC and network support, legislative information applications, publications support, media broadcast of legislative events, and managing the legislative website.

MANDATE FOR NEW REPORTING SYSTEM

OLIS recently made the decision to move from their mainframe system to a new Sun™ Solaris™-based development environment and data management system using Oracle. This conversion will give them much more flexibility for maintenance, modifications, and development than they had with their legacy system.

As part of the migration to the new system, OLIS needed to find a new Solaris-compatible automated publishing system to handle the many publications and reports that were previously handled by the mainframe system. In this transition, OLIS also wanted to find a solution that would give them maximum flexibility and efficiency. This improvement in publishing efficiency would contribute to the value of moving to the Sun-based system.

EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES

The OLIS team first decided to test Oracle Reports by developing one of

their key publications, the Committee Meetings Schedule. This report includes information about which legislative committees are meeting, the times and topics of the meetings, and the committee members. Four reports are derived from this information.

The OLIS team discovered that it took too long to develop the publications. Because the layout requirements were very complex and included many tables, these layouts were not easy to create using the Oracle tools. They concluded that developing their publications using Oracle Reports would take an excessive amount of time even for a highly-skilled operator.

After the experience with Oracle Reports, the OLIS team decided to investigate true publishing development packages. In their search for a new automated publishing solution, OLIS used the services of the Gartner Group to identify the leading providers. Gartner only had information on high-end vendors, so they supplemented the search themselves using Seybold Reports as a resource. They eventually narrowed their search to Arbortext and Miramo™ by Datazone.

MIRAMO ADVANTAGES

During the evaluation, OLIS tried using both tools to develop the Committee Meetings Schedule. The OLIS team ultimately decided on Miramo for several

info!transform it solutions

SEVENTY-FIRST OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
2001-2002 Interim

Joint Interim Legislative Schedule

November 1, 2002
Volume 7, Number 12

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TOM HARTUNG, President Pro Tempore
JUDY HALL, Secretary of the Senate

HOUSE OFFICERS

MARK SIMMONS, Speaker
LANE SHETTERLY, Speaker Pro Tempore
RAMONA KENADY, Chief Clerk of the House

COMMITTEE SCHEDULES CONTAINED IN THIS PUBLICATION INCLUDE:

JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

Budget Reconciliation	Economic Stimulus and Public Policy
Fujian Province Sister State	Health and Human Resources
Judiciary	Mental Health Parity
Natural Resources	Oregon Law Commission
Salmon Recovery	Tire Recycling

SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

Budget Committee	Environmental Health for Oregon Citizens
Farm Workers	General Government
Library Cooperation	Rules and Executive Appointments
State-Owned Vehicle Efficiency	

HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

Business and Commerce	Education
Emergency Management Preparedness	Farm Transportation Safety
General Government	Patient Choice in Health Care
Revenue	Senior and Disabled Services
Transportation	

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The 44-page Joint Interim Legislative Schedule is one of the complex, dynamic reports that OLIS handles with the Miramo-based automated publishing system.

expertise in Miramo and FrameMaker to get the OLIS team started with their development.

SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

“The adoption of the Miramo/FrameMaker system went smoothly for us,” said Don Miner, Applications Development Manager at OLIS. “It took about 5 days of training in Miramo and FrameMaker, plus a day of consulting on our first report to get us going.”

Once OLIS successfully completed the implementation of the first few reports, they called on AIS again to help refine their plans for implementing additional reports. They also worked with AIS to optimize performance of the system to handle all of the processes for multiple reports.

The OLIS team has been very pleased with the implementation of their new automated publishing system and has found many valuable benefits of the new system.

reasons. It was easy to learn, easy to implement, the FrameMaker and Miramo technology was well established, and the tagging methodology of Miramo was familiar to the OLIS team and quite similar to the mainframe system they were replacing. In comparison, the OLIS team felt that the Arbortext system would have a steep learning curve and require a high level of outside support for implementation.

SETTING OBJECTIVES

Once OLIS decided on Miramo as the software tool to use for their automated publishing needs, they identified their objectives for migrating the reports and publications from their legacy system. They identified 33 reports in all: 21 daily reports, three weekly reports, and nine

reports published every two years. These are essentially all of the OLIS publications that needed high quality layout, where the formatting was defined by dynamic data.

SOLUTION PARTNER

OLIS worked with Axial InfoSolutions, Inc. (AIS), the Miramo reseller and integrator, to prepare for implementation of the new system. AIS provides development, consulting and training support that helps companies implement powerful automated publishing solutions.

Miramo, an automated publishing tool which uses Adobe FrameMaker as the page layout engine, offers a very powerful, flexible and extremely fast publishing system for long, complex, or high volume documents. AIS provided the necessary

“New publications that used to take two months to rewrite can now be developed in less than half of that time. I can’t imagine another tool doing what we needed to do, and I don’t know how we would have accomplished our objectives without Miramo.”

— Don Miner, Applications Development Manager, OLIS