



QAT *Publisher* Business Value Story



State of Nevada chooses QAT *Publisher*. Flexibility of multiple output formats with a single tool and simplicity of development named as key advantages.

*“The ability to deliver any of the output formats from a single XML specification without additional coding is powerful. We also found development with *Publisher* to be at least 10% faster than our previous method.”*
- Bill Swenson, Project Manager, Information Management Services Division, State of Nevada.

Customer Detail

The Information Management Services Division (IMS) of the State of Nevada Division of Child and Family Services supports the IT initiatives of the Nevada DCFS. The Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth (UNITY) system is Nevada’s Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information (SACWIS) system. The mission includes: Protection and Permanency for Children, Juvenile Justice Program, Preservation of Families, and the Unifying of Communities. Adoptions, adolescent treatment centers, child protective services, foster care, and child care licensing are examples of the areas supported.

Project Overview

Built as an AllFusion Gen application, UNITY includes approximately 330 windows and 25 online reports. The UNITY system consists of Windows clients running C and mainframe servers running COBOL/DB2. Developed primarily to collect and provide the Federal Adoptions and Foster Care report, UNITY is a SACWIS compliant multi-functional system used by all case managers within Child and Family Services.

Challenge

The IMS team was most interested in finding a faster, simpler, more stable way to develop reports from UNITY and at the same time eliminate external action blocks (EABs) entirely. Also of critical importance was the ability to choose from multiple output formats at runtime, as Nevada has a wide variety of users with multiple desktop configurations to support. More flexible reporting formats were becoming more and more important to properly support the application.

Solution

QAT *Publisher* from QA Technologies offers six output formats including Word, Excel, HTML, PDF, RTF, and Crystal Reports. Once a new XML specification is created, the data can be transformed into any of these six formats without additional coding. Because QAT *Publisher* does not require EAB’s to generate the data file, there is no need to custom code an interface for each publication. This allowed the IT staff to choose the most appropriate format for each publication without the need for multiple tools.

Results

The returns provided by QAT *Publisher* have been recognized by both the IMS management and development teams. Management expressed particular satisfaction with the completion of a specific complex report, which the team had not been able to achieve under the previous reporting solution. This report was completed in two days using QAT *Publisher* by customizing the style sheet used to format the report. Developers quickly noted faster development due to the fact that external action blocks are not required, which also means that the Gen Diagram Trace tool can be used trace the report action blocks during the test cycle. *Publisher* generates Gen action blocks that natively write the XML files using custom XML functions added to Gen by *Publisher*. These generated action blocks are maintained and installed just like any other Gen action block. “It is more powerful, easier to develop with and it just runs faster” said Bill Swenson.