



PA Department of Health - Emergency Medical Services

Prequel Resuscitates EMS System

Using Microsoft.NET technology, Prequel Solutions designed and implemented a web-based application to support the Continuing Education Testing and Certification application for the PA Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Office.



Company Overview

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has been promoting the health and well being of Pennsylvania citizens since 1905. In today's rapidly changing world, the PA Department of Health is on the fore-front of using technology to provide comprehensive and responsive services to its constituents. The web enablement of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Office Registry System is an example of how PA Department of Health is responding to its changing environment.

Business Challenge

The Department of Health was seeking to upgrade the DOS-based Continuing Education Testing and Certification application to a Web-Based application that would integrate and automate the processes that collectively enable the EMS Office to administer and manage the their program. The Continuing Education Testing and Certification application is used by the Regional Emergency Medical Service Councils to track continuing education activity for all EMS providers, provide status reports, handle re-certifications, process and score certification exams, print and distribute certification materials, and maintain the statewide EMS registry system.

A major weakness of the existing application was its lack of connectivity between the different software applications and offices. The new Web-Based application needed to interface with the existing Ambulance Licensing, Continuing Education, Quick Response Service, Voluntary Rescue Service Recognition, and Medical Command applications via the existing EMS login portal. The Regional EMS Councils used an outdated DOS-based application which ran on the Microsoft Windows 3.1 Operating System. This application was running on a stand-alone computer at each of the sixteen Regional EMS Councils and, therefore, was not integrated and was unable to share information among the Regional EMS Councils or with the state EMS Office.

Overview

Profile

The PA Department of Health tracks information about Continuing Education Testing and Certification for sixteen Regional EMS Councils.

Business Need

The PA Department of Health needed an upgrade that would take to the Web their current Continuing Education Testing and Certification application.

Benefits

State and Regional EMS offices can access the same information and collaborate on a number of tasks. Efficiency of operations has increased while errors have been reduced.

Technology Services Provided

Microsoft.NET
SQL Database
Software Development
Management Consulting
Application/Systems Integration
Knowledge Management

Solution

Prequel designed and implemented a solution that allows a user to login using a single UserID and password and presents them with a menu of selections for each application, one of which is Continuing Education Testing and Certification. The new Web-Based application accesses a single, consolidated Microsoft SQL Server database. Each Regional EMS Council now has role-based access to their data within the new system and the state EMS office has access to all Continuing Education Testing and Certification data.

In addition, a number of operational enhancements were included in the solution. The new Web-based application provided:

- Role-based security instead of logins to external modules
- List sorting
- The ability to save reports as Excel spreadsheets
- Calendar controls for entering dates
- Field and full-text search capabilities
- System-generation of certificates and wallet cards
- Generation of letters and mailing labels
- The ability to schedule tasks that automate processes
- Reminders to identify certification renewals
- The ability to send re-certification reminders via email to candidates
- The ability for the EMS Offices and Regional Councils to jointly review, approve, or disapprove certifications
- Management of the application configuration through an administrative interface
- Automated email and letter generation
- Secure transmission of data
- Automatically generated reports

Benefits

Updating CETAC to a Web-Based application and consolidated database provided better performance, easier access to vital information, and the ability to share common information. Regional EMS Councils now all can see the same information eliminating errors and duplication of effort. Different offices can collaborate on a variety of tasks. The new Web-Based application optimizes the current workflow process resulting in smoother and more efficient operations and increased productivity.

For More Information

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