

SUNOCO Chemicals

Sunoco's General Ledger and Accounts Payable Applications Move Forward with Prequel's Help

Sunoco engaged Prequel Solutions to migrate their General Ledger and Accounts Payable Applications to the .NET framework.



Company Overview

Sunoco, Inc., headquartered in Philadelphia, Pa., is one of the largest independent petroleum refiner-marketers in the United States. Sunoco markets gasoline that is processed at five domestic refineries, each having a capacity of 900,000 barrels per day. The company also manufactures approximately five billion pounds of petrochemicals annually, which are used to make fibers, plastics, film, and resins. Using a unique, patented technology, Sunoco also manufactures two and a half million tons annually of high-quality metallurgical-grade coke for use in the steel industry.

Business Challenge

Sunoco originally used two Microsoft Visual Basic 6 applications running both manual and batch processes to extract data from their TabWare® Asset Management application for eight business sites. This information was then converted to flat files that were imported into their General Ledger and Accounts Payable systems. The company wanted to update their system to the .NET framework with the goal of making it more efficient and easily modified in the future.

Solution

Prequel replaced the existing batch processes with Windows services, using the Microsoft .Net framework. All variable information, e.g. file paths, control codes, database connect strings, FTP site definitions etc., was abstracted to an external source, so it could be simply configured, as needed, and sites easily added, without source changes and re-compilation.

Prequel also created a control panel for easy access to this variable information to configure parameterized data. From this management console changes could be made to global settings, Sunoco site info, scheduling, Tabware DB connections, GL / AP DB connections, site control codes, FTP configuration, and XML locations. An SQL Server database was created to hold this information in one place.

Overview

Profile

Sunoco is one of the nation's largest refiners and marketers of petroleum and petrochemical products.

Business Need

Sunoco wanted to update their General Ledger and Accounts Payable system from the outdated Visual Basic 6 to a .NET framework.

Benefits

Batch processes were replaced by Windows services.
An easily accessed control panel for reconfiguration.
Reduced down time because source code changes do not require re-compiling

Technology Services Provided

Management Consulting
Business Process Reengineering
Database Design
Software Development

Benefits

The solution created a solid, updated technical foundation for the data extraction processes to be augmented and supported going forward. Prequel modularized duplicate logic that had been needed to support batch and UI processes under the old system, further simplifying ongoing maintenance.

The solution streamlined the continuing support of the feed process by implementing a more generic, configurable interface. Future changes to physical file locations, database connection strings or FTP sites will be accommodated without the need for a recompile. System downtime is reduced, because the Windows Services, which are designed to not cache configuration data, will be able to run, uninterrupted, while incorporating real-time modifications to existing sites, as well as entirely new site information.

Prequel's work has helped Sunoco to have efficient business operations both now and in the future.

For More Information

For more information about Prequel Solutions call us at 724.820.1575

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