Arizona Chemical and DocKIT – One Time Migration Leads to Ongoing Value

Customer:

Arizona Chemical
Headquarters: Jacksonville,
Florida, U.S.A.

http://www.arizonachemical.com/

Client Industry:

Process Manufacturing -
Biorefinery

Products Used:

Vyapin's DocKIT for SharePoint

Microsoft SharePoint 2010:
http://office.microsoft.com/sharepoint

When leading green manufacturing practices are at the heart of an organization, continuously finding new ways to operate efficiently is the standard. That includes making best use of Information Technology. The Arizona Chemical team supporting its SharePoint environment is both lean and adept at finding innovative solutions, such as Vyapin's DocKIT, that work fast and deliver ongoing value.

About the Client

Jacksonville, Florida is headquarters for the world's leading bio-refiner of pine chemicals, Arizona Chemical. This global company continues to make the world greener through hundreds of sustainable products that improve daily life. Its world class manufacturing practices are focused on reducing waste, emissions, and energy consumption. With more than 1,100 employees and state-of-the-art refineries in 5 countries on both sides of the Atlantic, Arizona Chemical provides sustainable raw materials to hundreds of companies and, in-turn, to millions of consumers all around the world.

The Business Challenge

World class manufacturing operations demand constant attention to optimizing standard operating procedures (SOP) and remaining compliant with International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards. To that end, supporting documentation needs to be up-to-date and easy for employees to access.

Arizona Chemical's document management system, based on a heavily customized version of Lotus Notes, was in need of an upgrade if it was to keep pace with the organization's requirements. Following an evaluation, NextDocs, running on SharePoint 2010, was selected as the new platform. The team responsible for the migration had a number of challenges to tackle:

Challenge: To migrate documents located in multiple file shares to SharePoint 2010.

Moving from file shares to SharePoint.

As part of the migration project, approximately 12,000 documents on various file shares needed to be uploaded and assigned metadata in the new SharePoint environment.

Managing strict timelines.

The migration from the file shares needed to be done over weekends and at night to minimize impact on operations. With more than 10 locations to migrate over the course of several months, time management was a key consideration.

Limited resources.

The team responsible for the migration was small and also needed to address testing and training as part of the work effort.

Solution: Vyapin's DocKIT

As explained by Arizona Chemical IT Analyst Mike Spitler, "We realized that to meet the time constraints and with the limited resources available, a manual approach wasn't an option. We required a software tool to facilitate uploading the files and assigning the correct metadata in SharePoint". After leveraging the 30-day free trial from Vyapin, DocKIT was determined to be the best fit for the job.

Benefits of Using DocKIT:

- **Easy to learn and use**
- **Quick and efficient**
- **Applicable to multiple projects**

DocKIT, one of the very first file share to SharePoint migration tools in the industry, is considered a "gold standard" in file share migration. The tool boasts a feature set that supports migrations ranging from the straightforward to the very complex. Mike and the rest of team at Arizona Chemical leveraged the following features of the DocKIT solution:

Bulk upload capabilities

Using DocKIT, documents stored on file shares could be identified and moved to the correct location in SharePoint without requiring manual intervention.

Easy assignment of metadata

The solution made it easy to assign metadata stored in an Excel spreadsheet to the files being migrated into the SharePoint

environment. It eliminated the burden of manually assigning values to the documents saving the migration team time and effort.

Concise reporting

When errors were encountered during the weekly or nightly migration runs, rather than halting the process, DocKIT produced concise error reporting. This allowed the team to follow-up on issues the next day without losing precious time.

Benefits

"DocKIT was easy to learn and did a lot of the migration heavy lifting. The migration wouldn't have gone as smoothly without it".

- Mike Spitler, IT Analyst, Arizona Chemical Company

Based on the experience of working with DocKIT for the migration to SharePoint 2010, the biggest benefits to Arizona Chemical were threefold: its ease-of-use, the efficiencies it provided, and being able to leverage it across multiple projects.

First, DocKIT was straightforward to implement. It didn't require extra training which was important given the limited resources available.

Second, in describing DocKIT's impact on the migration, Mike said "it wouldn't have gone as smoothly without it". The tool ran quickly and operated efficiently saving time and allowing the migration team to focus on higher level tasks with minimal disruption to the business.

Last, while DocKIT was initially acquired for the Document Management Project, the tool has proved valuable in other projects. Arizona Chemical has been implementing SharePoint-based sharing centers for Research as well as Maintenance and Standard Operating Procedures. DocKIT continues to be leveraged for facilitating the migration of thousands of documents involved in those efforts.

Conclusion

Arizona Chemical successfully migrated its documents, tagging them with required metadata, from a number of file shares to SharePoint. The project was delivered efficiently, with consistent results and minimal disruption to the business. That's how Arizona Chemical demonstrated using Vyapin's DocKIT to set the standard of efficiency.