

Winshuttle Pays Off for HR Department at Southwark Council

Comprised of eight distinctive urban neighborhoods that extend along the River Thames and down into South East London, Southwark Council encompasses many of the city's most notable features and attractions, including London Bridge, Borough Market, the Tate Modern, and the reconstructed Globe Theatre.

Southwark Council manages a large number of services for the Borough's 278,000 residents, from highways to housing to health and social care. The Council employs nearly 6,000 people and went live with SAP in 1999.

Challenge

In 2008, Southwark Council set upon a plan to improve efficiency throughout the organization. "We're very conscious of the fact that we're spending public money, so of course we're always looking for ways to make the most of our resources," says Lynn Farrell, SAP HR and Payroll Manager at the Council. "In fact, our leadership made efficiency savings a central part of the Council's internal agenda for 2008."

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That internal agenda concentrated on two areas in particular: instituting greener business practices and incorporating a number of satellite offices into a single building. "We had too much paper flying around our office," says Farrell. "And with a number of employees being moved from one building to another, our HR department faced a considerable challenge in updating thousands of employees' records in SAP."

Farrell's team began searching for a solution that would accelerate the SAP data entry process while reducing the cost and environmental impact of using too much paper. They found that solution in Winshuttle's transactionSHUTTLE.

Solution

Winshuttle offered an intuitive way for Southwark Council's HR department to drastically reduce data entry and even tackle projects that would otherwise remain untouched. "With Winshuttle, you can import massive amounts of data directly from a spreadsheet, which is a format that employees know and understand," says Farrell. "It's changed how we approach all kinds of SAP data—from mass changes to periodic data cleansing."



Customer

- Southwark Council

Industry

- Public Sector

Challenge

- Improve efficiency by minimizing SAP data entry in HR department
- Institute greener business practices by reducing reliance on paper
- Update data affected by moving satellite offices into a single building

Solution

- transactionSHUTTLE

Results

- Cleanse large amounts of employee data on a regular basis
- Implement pay increase for thousands of employees in 30 minutes
- Reduce carbon footprint by moving from paper records to electronic records

SAP Version

- ERP 6.0

SAP Modules

- HR

SAP Transactions / Types

- PA-30, Infotype 2001, Infotype 2010

Winshuttle, Inc. is the leading provider of data entry and data download tools for SAP users worldwide. Winshuttle's products, transactionSHUTTLE and querySHUTTLE, replace manual data input and complex technical tools by easily and securely shuttling data between Microsoft Excel or Access and SAP without programming, effectively bridging the needs of business users with the governance requirements of IT. The Winshuttle tools transform business processes for both implementation and post production projects, including data import, data quality, and data integration. Managing SAP data has never been simpler for the hundreds of Global 2000 companies that rely on Winshuttle. Headquartered in Bothell, Washington, Winshuttle has offices in the United Kingdom, France, and India. For more information visit <http://www.winshuttle.com>, email info@winshuttle.com or call 1-800-711-9798 in the United States or +800 27 00000 9 in Europe.

Farrell and her team immediately applied Winshuttle's transactionSHUTTLE to a particularly labor-intensive annual task—implementing annual pay increase increments given to nearly all of the Council's 6,000 staff every April. Farrell's team also performed a mass update in SAP when thousands of employees moved from one building to another.

In addition, Southwark Council often needs to accommodate new government regulations or make other unplanned changes throughout its HR system—ad hoc jobs that can be accomplished much more quickly with Winshuttle. "One of my team members has determined that if he's changing more than 30 records, then it's worth his time to use Winshuttle instead of doing the update manually," says Farrell. "What's more, we can very easily group piecemeal tasks together so that we're performing them more regularly and efficiently."

Results

Prior to Winshuttle, Farrell's team simply didn't have the time to perform data cleansing with any frequency. Now they can update 13,000 sets of details over the course of an hour. "Data cleansing is one of those tasks that's very important because it keeps employees' personal details up-to-date," says Farrell. "However, it's not absolutely critical, so it often gets swept aside in favor of more pressing obligations. Winshuttle makes it easy for us to cleanse our data on a regular basis. You invest a bit of time to set up the transaction, then you can run it as routine maintenance."

Using Winshuttle's transactionSHUTTLE to implement annual pay increase increments resulted in similarly dramatic time savings: a job that once required four person-days can now be accomplished in less than 30 minutes, all while improving data accuracy and minimizing unnecessary paper. "Now we can keep more of our data in an entirely electronic format," says Farrell. "That helps us achieve the Council's green agenda, and of course it saves money as well."

Perhaps most importantly, Farrell's team now has more time to concentrate on higher-level tasks. "I don't know many people who particularly enjoy data entry, especially when they have so much to do already," says Farrell. "With Winshuttle, we can put more of our energy toward work that we enjoy, and we can invest more of our time in strategic tasks. It's brilliant."

Future Plans

So far, only the HR department at Southwark Council uses Winshuttle. Farrell hopes to see that change. "I'm convinced that transactionSHUTTLE would be extremely helpful to some of our other departments, including finance," she says. "We're hoping to find yet more ways to use it in HR as well. For instance, we hire a large number of temporary workers during election season, and we would like to use Winshuttle for entering them into our system. As far as I'm concerned, we've only begun to explore the possibilities here."

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