

Kforce Global Solutions

Case Study

Pharmaceutical Partner Portal

Business Challenge

A premier pharmaceutical distribution company was struggling to maintain and expand their partner portal. The portal, which is used for sales and inventory information sharing, was originally designed using the now antiquated Model 1 (MVC) architecture model. This resulted in a blending of presentation, authentication and authorization, and data access logic, leading to high complexity in maintenance and enhancements. Additionally, when a security review was performed, the portal was found to have serious vulnerabilities. The portal also had outdated graphics and required UI enhancements.

Kforce Global Solution

To solve the client's architecture, security, and UI issues, Global mobilized our Web Application Enhancement team. The team evaluated and identified weaknesses in the current design and proposed a solution employing best practices and best of breed web technology. The solution had three key components:

- To address the architecture weaknesses in the existing portal, the application would be re-architected to align with Model 2 (MVC), which employs a separation of presentation, business logic, and data access. This would have the benefit of modularity which results in ease of maintenance, reusability, and flexibility of the application code.
- To address the security issues, the Spring™ framework was used as a foundation for security since it is highly extensible and provides out-of-the-box components that address almost any custom security need.
- To address the outdated look and feel, Global would overhaul the application's UI.

Our proposed design of the re-architected application was well received by the client and Global was awarded the project.

Results

Global partnered with the client's subject-matter-experts and project manager to plan and execute the project delivery. A team of seven Global resources, including a project manager, a QA specialist, and developers, worked to develop the solution on time and on budget within the timeframe originally planned for the project. The architecture was brought to Model 2 (MVC) standards and the UI was updated. The security concerns that were addressed included the removal of SQL injection and cross-site scripting vulnerabilities, the encryption of the login process, the provision of a non-cacheable login page and a session ID update, and the implementation of a strong password policy. Overall, the project demonstrated Global's ability to solve complex problems in a structured manner and deliver high quality results.

Environment

Platform: Red Hat Enterprise Linux™ RHEL 5.3
Language: Java™, J2EE™, Spring framework™
Database: Oracle™ 10g
Web App Server: Tomcat™/Apache™ v6.0.20



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