



SWORD
UPGRADE YOUR BUSINESS

**Fusion for IBM
 FileNet P8**



AMEC Paragon

AMEC Paragon meet their engineering document management requirements by using Fusion to enhance their IBM Fusion P8 platform.

Background

AMEC Paragon is AMEC’s hub for oil and gas operations based in Houston, Texas, providing engineering, materials management, and construction management services to the oil and gas, pipeline, and midstream industries.

Specialities include onshore and offshore production facilities, offshore platforms, onshore and offshore pipelines, floating production systems, and subsea systems.

AMEC Paragon has completed more than 4,000 projects in 30 countries for over 260 clients.

Historically AMEC has been using SWORD’s products for Engineering Document Management for various projects over the last 10 years.

AMEC Paragon has also committed to IBM’s FileNet P8 as their Enterprise Content Management (ECM) platform having used FileNet for over 5 years.

Challenge

The standard Fusion product could meet AMEC’s engineering document management requirements but this would have meant using SWORD’s own proprietary content repository and Fusion’s own core document management functions. This was something AMEC wished to avoid as they were keen to continue to use their chosen enterprise solution of IBM FileNet for these capabilities.

The FileNet ECM platform could provide the core capabilities AMEC needed; but it lacked the specialist engineering focus that AMEC required. To customize and extend the FileNet platform to provide the required engineering applications would

have involved extensive and expensive software development. As with any bespoke development this would have introduced an on-going challenge for the maintenance and support of the bespoke work.

“We are in the systems configuration business,” said Marc-Henri Cerar, Manager of Project IT and Information Systems at AMEC Paragon. “We did not want to get into software development, where we might get painted into a corner when an EDMS vendor changes its code.”

“The challenge we gave SWORD was to continue to provide the engineering applications our engineers demanded but based on the FileNet P8 platform instead of the standalone Fusion document vault and core document management functions.”

Equally essential to AMEC was a user interface for the engineers that supported their AMEC engineering business processes.

The user interface needed to be intuitively simple, flexible in the ways that documents could be browsed and configurable to match each user’s role.

In addition, Cerar wanted to move away from FileNet’s reliance on the J2EE Java environment to provide a user interface for collaborative working with AMEC’s partners and suppliers based on Microsoft .NET technology.

There was a time constraint too, with engineers in Houston needing to work closely with International counterparts as part of upcoming project work at AMEC. Any solution had to fit within the tight project timescales in order to provide any benefit.

“There was no Plan B so we all had to make this work. As a result this was very much a collaborative joint effort, a far cry from the usual client-contractor kind of thing. Sword really did deliver for us.”

Marc-Henri Cerar, Manager of Project IT and Information Systems at AMEC Paragon

Solution

The solution was to remove SWORD's proprietary document vault and core functions and replace them with those available from the IBM FileNet P8 platform. The result was a suite of engineering applications built on top of the FileNet P8 Application Program Interface (API), which is provided and supported by IBM FileNet.

The engineering applications delivered and installed on time at AMEC include:

- CAD Connector for AutoCAD and MicroStation V8 - allowing CAD users to access Fusion without having to leave their CAD environment. Capabilities provided include: view document, check in/out, save, index drawing, attach references and importing title blocks.
- Collaboration Manager provides client access, document review and published documents based on MS SharePoint 2007
- Bulk import and export for data and document exchange
- Engineering document search and navigation supports multiple document views, At a Glance overview capability as well as many ways to navigate around FileNet.

All these applications were provided via a highly customizable User Interface built on top of .Net architecture. This lets users choose how they want to search for information and to be able to tailor their own workspaces depending on their role.

SWORD's professional services team have also integrated Fusion with AMEC's corporate system for project control, progress management and materials management - Convero.

Fusion adds the valuable document-management capabilities to FileNet 4.0 that our engineers and technical users ask us for, Cerar said. "In addition, the Fusion UI lets you quickly configure new document structures or change existing ones."



Behind the UI, Cerar is sold on FileNet. "It is mature, robust, stable and powerful. Fusion and FileNet are really good complementary technologies," Cerar added.

Benefits

One of the key benefits to AMEC of using Fusion is that their engineers are able to continue to follow the standard AMEC procedures which would have been impossible before without heavily customizing and extending the standard FileNet platform.

"Everyone had a lot at stake in this," Cerar said. "There was no Plan B so we all had to make this work. As a result this was very much a collaborative joint effort, a far cry from the usual client-contractor kind of thing. SWORD really did deliver for us." He cited three examples:

To meet AMEC's tight time frame, Sword gained early access to FileNet 8.0 code by qualifying as a FileNet business partner.

To fill gaps in AMEC's staff expertise, Sword made available its best IBM FileNet and SharePoint subject-matter experts, and provided AMEC with the best available resources to ensure the project's success.

To accommodate AMEC's inevitable project changes, SWORD took them as challenges to be met constructively and professionally. "When we pushed, they did not push back." Cerar said.

Future

In future the FileNet P8 workflow is to be integrated with the Fusion applications replacing Fusion's proprietary workflow.

The use of Fusion FileNet P8 is expected to increase to include drawing approvals, data books and Purchase Orders (POs). Each PO will require a complete transaction record including: specifications, approvals, authorizations, contract awards and follow-throughs.

AMEC Paragon is also looking to start new projects with Fusion for IBM FileNet P8 as well as migrating selected existing projects.



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