

WSIPC Washington School Information Processing Cooperative Customer Success Story



A public agency, WSIPC provides IT services to a cooperative of over 280 Washington state school districts. Specifically WSIPC develops and licenses a suite of student, human resources and financial management modules that enable federal, state and ad hoc data reporting. As part of services provided, WSIPC provides technical support and must also frequently modify its software to match Washington's unique mandatory reporting requirements which change from year to year.



Mr. Joe Towns, the Sr. Programmer/Analyst amongst 15 developers reports that WSIPC has been using Roundtable TSMS (RTB) for over 14 years. "We've had nothing but excellent success with RTB both internally and with our partner company, Skyward, Inc." WSIPC uses RTB for all source control and versioning and also for their release process and packaging. "The way that it handles our source code in development is very helpful in being able to look at different objects and know who's got what object checked out and what their changes were. The object history feature as well as the visual-diff tools are extremely powerful in allowing us to know exactly what changes were made to each version of an object and when those changes were made. Though we primarily use RTB for Progress source and WebSpeed objects, we also use RTB to track and version all our data manipulation and non-Progress code."

Currently WSIPC is working in collaboration with Skyward, Inc. a national leader in ERP software development for K-12 schools on the development of enhanced point-and-click and now Web-based versions of their applications. "We do a lot of customization for our customers." Mr. Towns reports, "We write state-specific code required for reporting, processing and accounting within the state of WA. What we write becomes seamless add-on functionality to Skyward's products. We never change their production code but we have to release both their code and ours at the same time. So, being able to control and promote objects appropriately to meet our release time lines has been extremely useful. Using the Partner Load feature in RTB makes this task easy. Because the Partner Load feature gives us full access to Skyward's code, RTB has really allowed us to do a good job both seeing their releases and being able to develop our releases as theirs is released to us. RTB provides the perfect mechanism to dovetail our software changes into the releases we get from Skyward. Without RTB, that would be a very difficult to do".

Mr. Towns goes onto say, "We also do development for Skyward on their development server using RTB. Whenever one works in another companies environment, there is an adjustment period, as developers learn the new tools and environment. Because Skyward uses RTB, we were able to hit the ground running, with no impact to development productivity. This gives us that common environment to develop software successfully".



Before RTB, WSIPC used a home-grown source control system. "We always seemed to have problems with code getting lost or the wrong versions getting included in the release packages, explains Mr. Towns. "With RTB that's been all but eliminated."



When asked if he could quantify the difference that RTB has made to WSIPC's software development operations, Mr. Towns volunteered, "On a percentage basis, compared to previous systems that we'd been using, **we're seeing a good 50 to 60% savings in time. Productivity is probably increased 30% to 40%.** I can attribute a lot of this to the foremost benefit where RTB has helped us the most which is standardization; everybody using the same tool doing things the same way. This, along with the reliability of the code versioning are two of the major improvements in our processes."

You can learn more about WSIPC and the services they provide at:

<http://www.wsipc.org>

For more information about Roundtable TSMS, please contact Tugboat Software or your local Progress sales representative.

Tugboat Software is a technology alliance partner with Progress Software Corporation - a global supplier of software and services that simplify the development, deployment and management of business applications.



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