

October 28, 2011



focus



L-R Back Row: Darren Koontz, James Newman, Nate Hartman, Mark Kenne and Jim Walkenhorst
Front Row: Rocky Copeland, Dan Kalt, Mayor Beutler, Brenda Berens and Tony Palizzi

This week Mayor Beutler visited the Accela Analysis Center. His visit was made during a Health permit analysis session. We appreciate the concrete support that we receive from the Mayor on this extremely important project. We will be meeting with Mayor Beutler on a regular basis to keep him informed of the progress.

ACCELA INAUGURATES “ACCELA AUTOMATOR” AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT TECHNOLOGY

Accela introduced the “Accela Automator” awards, a new honor bestowed at Accela’s annual User Conference to customers who have deployed the company’s flagship Accela Automation[®] enterprise software and related solutions to make government easier, faster, and more accessible. Accela revealed the names of the award’s first three recipients announced at the August 2011 User Conference: the City of Tigard, Ore.; Boulder County, Colo.; and the City of El Paso, Texas. The awards were presented by Accela CEO and President, Maury Blackman. We will feature one a week.

El Paso: More Accessible Data for Field-based Workers

For Accela Automation customer El Paso, which serves a growing population of more than 650,000, improving productivity, documentation quality, and team satisfaction across all departments is an ongoing goal – and empowering its mobile workers with the latest technology was an important step in that direction. Wanting to extend processing capabilities to the field for inspections, code enforcement, and work orders, El Paso deployed Accela Mobile Office[®], running on rugged tablet PCs, among the Public Health, Parks, and Engineering & Construction Management departments, the Fire Marshall’s office, and the Environmental Services Department’s Solid Waste, Vector Control, and Code Enforcement divisions.

The combined solution has provided field-based workers on these teams with direct access to the same data, GIS maps and tools as back-office staff, while delivering capabilities that are critical to teams on the go, such as GIS/GPS routing, broadcast messaging, and easy navigation. Since El Paso’s mountainous terrain often causes lost wireless connectivity during transactions, Accela Mobile Office’s create-and-store capability, which permits later data syncing, was also critical. Today, El Paso’s office and mobile teams are closely connected with anytime-anywhere information at their fingertips, and revenues across the deployed departments are markedly higher.

Let’s join together in our Accela Automation project for Lincoln and create an award winning success story!

As many of you are aware, the electronic document management system (EDMS) component of the Accela Automation (AA) project is an important part of the end product. For those of you who are new to this concept the EDMS is the part of the system which allows you to attach different types of documents, pictures, plans to building permits and other records in the Accela Automation product. Along with EDMS the electronic document review (EDR), which allows you to make comments, strikeouts and revisions, is equally important. The key issue at this time is which product will fit all of our needs the best. Our options at this time include the delivered AA EDMS / EDR, continued use of Project Dox, consideration of another third party product, or a blend of the options. We thought that it would be good business to share some of the recent questions and answers about Accela’s EDMS in this week’s newsletter. Please review them on the last page of this newsletter. And, as always do not hesitate to offer your suggestions, comments or questions to jwalkenhorst@lincoln.ne.gov.

ACCELA ANALYSIS CENTER ACTIVITIES:

This week Brenda and Darren returned for the following permit analysis sessions:

- Health: 10/25 – On site wastewater; 10/26 – NPEDS/Mstr Int SWWT; 10/27 – Recycle Sale Compost/Cleaner Liquids
- PW&U: 10/25 – Private Construction Agreements; 10/26 – Health Worksheet Follow up; 10/27 – PW&U Worksheet

Last week Matt and Shauna were on site to facilitate the following permit analysis sessions:

- Planning: 10/18 – Amendment/Change of Zone; 10/19 – Preliminary/Final Plat; 10/20 – Annexation/Change Zone Amendments
- Building and Safety: 10/18 – Mechanical/Plumbing; 10/19 – Registration Occupancy; 10/20 – Curb Cut/Demolition

Next week we will have no analysis sessions scheduled with Accela. It is a skip week. Plans are being made

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WINNER: Congratulations to James Newman winner of the latest question of the week name drawing. As you can see James is enjoying his “Life Has Its Ups and Downs” Yo-Yo! His thirst for additional GIS and Accela project information was much appreciated. Mark Kenne was last week’s winner of the “I Wake” Coffee Cup.



James Newman, winner of the Yo-Yo!

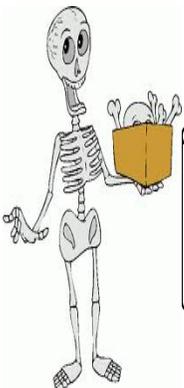


Mark Kenne, won the I Wake Coffee Cup



Next week’s drawing prize is an Accela Water Bottle.

1. Can documents be attached via a batch job and/or report? For Health renewals they want to attach the statement to each record when they run the renewal report.
 - a. Yes, through the batch script we can execute and attach the report to each record as it is processed.
2. When you change security on a document type through the administrator function does it apply to documents already attached to records?
 - a. Yes. Each time you open a document it looks at the current security policy.
3. Is there a limit of the number of EDMS systems that can be configured?
 - a. No. You can configure multiple EDMS. You set one of them as the default then you have a drop down to select which other EDMS you want to use to attach a document.
4. Is there a maximum of a document?
 - a. You define the maximum size of the document when configuring the EDMS system in AA. For storing documents in a SQL database it is 2G, for the Accela Document server I am checking with engineering. The issue with setting a large maximum size is the system performance for uploading or downloading the large document. The system may timeout.
5. How are the Accela EDR and EDMS features related?
 - a. For EDR the review document is attached through workflow and stored in the Accela EDMA. You need the Adobe Viewer to make markups.
6. Can you scan and attach a document at the same time? This is a feature of PP+ that they currently use.
 - a. No this feature is not available in the Accela EDMS feature.
7. Can documents attached to a record be edited?
 - a. If you are using ADS (Accela Document Service) and have the Bravo viewer software, yes. If you are using ADS without Bravo or storing documents in the DB, no. In that case the document would need to be downloaded, changed and then attached as a new document.
8. Can you define additional meta data for document types.
 - a. No there is no feature to create custom meta data fields.
9. Will there be any issue converting documents from either PP+ OfficeLink or OfficeLinc?
 - a. The documents can be converted. PP+ Office Link is included in the standard conversion but the Lincoln in-house OfficeLinc would be a custom conversion.



Something to think about:

“The thing about skeletons that is quite clear, you can see right through them with nothing to fear.”

(Copyright James Wayne, Inc. 2005)

Happy Halloween!!!

JIM WALKENHORST
PROJECT MANAGER

FRED A. HOKE
PROJECT SPONSOR

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: Although it is not a question, you can help us immensely though, by naming any potential project obstacle you can think of. Please e-mail: jwalkenhorst@lincoln.ne.gov

Please print a copy of this newsletter for members of staff who do not have e-mail.