

April 27, 2012

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ACCELA  
Government Software

focus

*Designed for all staff and departments who use Accela*

### **Project Status Report**

Our Accela Project Implementation Schedule has reached 52% overall completion. With the core record building effort behind us, our task now is to stay focused on data conversion and Script writing. The effort is parallel on these tasks. We are working through issues with application-specific fields, some procedural errors, and generally delving deeper into record and data analysis to gain a full understanding of conversion details. Although this effort is in its infancy, much technical work has been done in the background to establish the conversion environment to enable the Accela Data Mapping Tool. Weekly conference calls are being held with Accela's Andy Winningham to keep connected with our Subject Matter Experts (SME's) and to keep the conversion effort rolling along. In addition to the conversion effort, Script writing is coming along well. Accela's Matt Hart has been leading the charge. Accela will complete 30 of 120 Scripts. Matt already has completed a few of these Scripts. One of the Scripts which is significant for Lincoln is a Script that is invoked to push out notifications to recipients via e-mail. Mark Kenne has done some additional testing from the Health Department perspective and the e-mail Script seems to be functioning well. Another parallel effort is being handled by Accela. Report building efforts are in progress. Darren Koontz, an Accela "building contractor", has been building on reports. Accela has been contracted to complete 60 initial reports for Lincoln. The SME's will use these reports as templates wherever possible to help us continue our own report development activities. Lincoln has a high volume of reports which need to be completed. On the reports note, Information Services is trying out a new *Crystal Reports* training program that will be available on demand 24/7/365. Tim Storer from Information Services is mapping a new drive which will contain *Crystal Reports* training. I'm hopeful that within the next week or two the details of the program will become available and the training will then be opened up to our team. Another significant effort which continues in the background is the development of the Accela GIS system. Jeff McReynolds is working directly with Accela's Paul Rose. They are making great progress on the GIS layers that will be made available to Accela Automation. Work also continues to develop the external address, parcel, owner interface to County Assessor data.

### **Current Project Challenges**

**OnBase EDMS** - The evaluation of On Base has been extensive, including proof-of-concept exercises with Law and researching the integration with Accela Automation. Diligence was continued in return on investment models as we have worked directly with the State's OnBase resource partner - eDocument Resources. The manufacturer of OnBase, Hyland Software, also has provided documentation, a complete manual, which explains the fine points of OnBase integration with Accela Automation. The folks at e-Document Resources have discussed their experiences with us, face-to-face, regarding the interface of OnBase and Accela Automation. Our partners at Accela are poised to help us with whatever we need to complete the integration. We are waiting for a final decision from upper management to move forward with OnBase as our enterprise document management solution.

**Credit Cards** - There has been much discussion in the background regarding credit card processing. On the usage of credit cards at the DSC counter, we have contemplated a number of solutions; however, at this time it appears as if we will have credit card authorization/authentication devices at the counter. Also, regarding the use of credit cards through Accela Citizen Access, it is our understanding that Accela works with just one merchant account. So, this means that behind the scenes we will have some financial gymnastic design work to accommodate the process in the City Treasurer's Office. We will need to get the financial credit card team together again soon. One of our challenges is to determine how credit card fees will be handled. Is there an impact with merchant accounts or any City code which exists that will need to be considered regarding fees? For example, a credit card company may assess a merchant 1-or-2-or-3% fee for each transaction...and, how or where is that money accounted for, who pays for it? Also, our IS Division is ready when we are to lend their experience in the merchant account/VeriSign arena. We've got a ways to go before we have our arms around all of these issues.

**Crystal Reports Enterprise** - We've had a busy week in connecting people to resolve the Accela Adapter compatibility issue. We worked out some details with SAP/Crystal to gain access to a back version of Crystal Reports Server 2008 and learned that our enterprise environment, BOBI Edge 4.0, is backwards compatible with Crystal Report Server software. Along with this news, we learned that Accela's Adapter will be updated to work with either Crystal Reports Server 2008 or 2011, with the Accela Adapter remaining a single software component instead of one per version. As this unfolds, we will see that the Accela Adapter can be upgraded itself once it is certified and then eventually we can upgrade our Crystal Reports Server from 2008 to 2011. This should be somewhat of a transparent process when the time comes. We will give a progress report on this change next week and then most likely remove this issue from our Current Project Challenges list the following week.

**ProjectDox** - Some interesting things are happening in this area. As we look at expanding the use of ProjectDox in Building & Safety, we are finding more and more businesses and cities that are using ProjectDox for extremely complex construction projects and plan review. We are anxious to find out about some of the exciting things that other businesses and our peers are doing with ProjectDox as well as how they are benefitting from the technology. Avolve is still working on providing a document to IS which includes the minimum technical requirements for ProjectDox 8.0 that a temporary test environment can be created.

Hey, it's time to plant a tree. Today, April 27 is National Arbor Day! This national day to recognize the importance for "green & trees" started with its roots in our very own Nebraska City. If you are planning on planting a tree in celebration of this special day, send us your name and we will include your name in a drawing for one prize of your choice: I Wake coffee mug, Hard Work Pays Off thumb scramble, You Can Always Bounce Back paddle ball, Life Has Its Ups and Down yo-yo, or an Accela-branded notebook and pen. Now please, go plant a tree! To

enter your name in the drawing, send "I'm planting a tree" to:

[jwalkenhorst@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:jwalkenhorst@lincoln.ne.gov).



**On this Day - April 27<sup>th</sup>!**

**New Freedom Tower, NYC**

The nation's largest building is still growing and will continue to do so until the building reaches its historic height -- 1776 feet. The ground was broken for this incredible building on this very day -- April 27, 2006. This massive building will be home to 2.6 million square feet of office space and the project will top out about \$3.8 billion. The spire atop the New Freedom Tower is actually taller than our own Nebraska State Capitol (approx. 400 feet tall). Imagine the task of plan review and the number of required permits. What a remarkable construction feat!



**JIM WALKENHORST**  
PROJECT MANAGER

**FRED A. HOKE**  
PROJECT SPONSOR

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