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ACCELA
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focus

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Project Status Report

Script writing is moving along nicely with 54 of the original 122 scripts having been tested and accepted by Lincoln. There are 24 Scripts in the process of being tested by Subject Matter Experts (SME's). Mark Kenne uncovered a defect in a Script related to Health's Water Well Permits and Missy Minner has discovered a defect in Planning's Hearing Table Update Script. Accela's Seth Axthelm has knocked out the additional 22 Building and Safety Scripts and Rita Cox is currently testing them. After further review of Records and Scripts, we have withdrawn six Scripts. The remaining Scripts are on track for completion prior to User Acceptance Testing (UAT).

There is measurable progress in the conversion arena. All of the departments have completed their initial conversion pass. Some of the one-to-one data conversions, or field-to-field data conversions, went extremely well. Of course, the more complicated area of conversion involving more difficult data relationships has been more trying. Accela's Andy Wunningham and the SME's are still plowing through the extremely tedious and exacting job of mapping conversion data. Another conversion pass is planned in the weeks ahead. Meanwhile, the team will continue to tweak the data conversion for each record type. Our next milestone is to have enough of the conversion completed by the week of July 23 so that UAT can proceed as planned.

We are still having problems with Crystal Reports. We are not able to execute certain reports after they are defined in Accela Automation. This issue has been raised to critical status on our open issue list. A solution for the issue must be determined as soon as possible. Also, we are waiting on the installation of Crystal Reports for several new Crystal Reports users. We currently have 211 reports listed on our development list. There have been 54 reports withdrawn from the list for various reasons. Accela is making good progress on their contracted 60-report development effort. The testing of these reports has been hindered by the lack of converted data to test both records and reports.

The Critical Path

Most projects contain a large number of tasks. The critical path is the particular sequence of tasks that must be complete for the project to be considered complete. This path dictates the finish date on our project. The critical path is not just a list of vital tasks. It is a specific sequence of tasks, each one depending on the last. Our project has several sequences like this, even several critical sequences. The one that is projected to finish last dictates project completion and is, therefore, the critical path.

For example, along our critical path there have been tasks such as analysis of permit/record types, building records, and conversions. And today, we continue work on our critical path needing to finish Script writing, then complete conversion tasks, write the reports necessary for go-live, and then we can begin User Acceptance Testing. These are typically a serial sequence of events. However, we also have parallel tasks. While the core critical path tasks

are a work in progress, we have been seeding the project ahead with parallel efforts such as developing and configuring Accela GIS, Accela Mobile Office, and Citizen Access modules.

As projects mature, having many simultaneous tasks can result in a collision course between serial/parallel tasks and the project schedule. Today, our critical path is being challenged with our conversion effort. Our next hurdle is reports development. Crystal Reports is a new tool to most of the project members. All SME's have been working diligently to maintain the project schedule. The next two major upcoming milestones include UAT and data conversion Pass 2.

Accela Mobile Office

The Accela Mobile Office (AMO) software has been installed on six PC's at Building and Safety. Ed Bergstraesser, Lincoln's Chief Electrical Inspector, reports concerns about the performance of Inspectrac after the AMO installation was completed. The Tough Book he uses performed dramatically slower after the AMO install. Building and Safety Systems Specialist Jerris Nider indicated that the Tough Books that are currently being used in the field have about 40G of storage. Nearly 90% of that storage has already been consumed by Inspectrac and related permanent and temporary files. According to information available during the AMO installation process, AMO only consumes between 500M to 1G of storage. The performance is not likely a problem with AMO. However, it may possibly be an issue with the companion software components that are necessary for AMO -- MS .NET 4.0 framework, .NET Crystal, and others.

We do not have any concrete answers yet, however we are monitoring the performance of other PC's as well to determine a course of action. Meanwhile, Jerris mentioned several Gig of temporary files could be deleted. Perhaps some clean-up activities on these PC's as they come in for the install would be beneficial. It is Lincoln's understanding that the current Inspectrac software was installed in a custom manner and it is typically a custom installation city by city. Maintenance and/or upgrades of Inspectrac have not been performed in many years. Also, there has been an ongoing intermittent bug in Inspectrac. This bug creates an insufficient storage error within the (Borland) database.

When considering the new AMO technology solution, Building and Safety had planned to execute AMO on the current devices already deployed in the field. There are many concerns that have been expressed regarding the continued use of current Tough Books with AMO. One such concern is that the current Tough Books and all related software is out of date, a tremendous amount of in-service hours have been logged on these devices, and general reliability. From many conversations comes one common outcry -- the question is not whether or not we should replace the current Tough Books -- it is how soon can we replace them.

Health Department July Employee of the Month - Brent Pavel

Brent works for Environmental Public Health and Information & Fiscal Management and has been an asset from day one. He is relatively new to the Health Department, but has joined us at a very exciting (and sometimes stressful) time for the City of Lincoln. Brent has come in and "hit the ground running," working tirelessly with Mark Kenne and their mini-SME's on our conversion from the Permits Plus to Accela Automation software systems. Brent's good humor, patience, and ability to communicate complex programming lingo into "regular English" has been a blessing. Brent will continue to be an invaluable member of the team as we adapt to a new way of doing business. Thanks, Brent, for all that you are doing behind the scenes. We know that you do your best work outside of the spotlight, but just this once, take a bow! Congratulations, Brent!



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