



August 24, 2012

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ACCELA
Government Software

focus

Designed for all staff and departments who use Accela

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

This past week has been a week of good and not-so-good news. The word “diligence” defines this week. Webster's Dictionary refers to diligence as being marked by persevering, painstaking effort, and constant attentiveness. All of these seem to be quite good descriptors of the work that's being performed by everyone involved on the project. We have come a long way since the first kick-off meeting on September 19, 2011. An enormous effort brought us many successes along the way: we have achieved every milestone target date up-and-to conversion; we have found cost savings, recoveries, and licensing in excess of \$150K. Today, we have a system worthy of beginning our user acceptance testing which includes nearly every permit record type and core data which has been converted via Accela's Data Mapping Tool. The majority of Scripts have been written for special processing functions and nearly 60 reports have been written by Accela. Workflows have been improved and processes evaluated and re-engineered whenever possible.

We have a number of open issues as well as some fallout from user acceptance testing. Although we're making progress on conversion there are a number of data elements and related data which have been difficult to convert. Intertwined in the conversion are some tricky data relationships that will require special programming solutions to move data to the staging files for conversion to Accela Automation. There are many permit record type specific rules and processes that need special attention as well. However, now is the time to discover these things.

The more difficult news . . . The conversion is not completed yet. Testing cannot be completed with incomplete data. This is a roadblock when it comes to the development of the reports necessary for the system to be used in production. This is a double-edged sword. On one side is the data that is not present for good report development; on the other side, the deployment of reports in Accela still is not operational. The domino effect comes into play as conversion blocks the testing and report development. The Accela Adapter is not working as it should. This hampers report execution through AA. User acceptance testing ends up with a shorter list of functional items and data to test.

There still are open conversion issues, Accela Adapter/Crystal Reports execution problems, and having no interface ready for ProjectDox. The target dates have slipped. For the first time in nearly a year, we truly are behind schedule. I want to return to the word “diligence”. All project obstacles are receiving huge amounts of attention. There are so many people who are committed to solutions it’s only a matter of time before we have completed work and big break-throughs. We most likely will have to extend the “go-live” date for at least four to six weeks.

Again, I want to thank our SME's for their deep involvement in problem solving for the Accela Adapter/Crystal issues when their time otherwise could have been invested in working on conversion and other activities.

This is a short report this week; however, we hope to report at length progress and breakthroughs on these challenging project issues in the next edition of the newsletter.

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This day in history . . .

August 24, 1995 Microsoft Windows 95 Debuts

It's hard to believe that this was 17 years ago!



JIM WALKENHORST
PROJECT MANAGER

FRED A. HOKE
PROJECT SPONSOR

Our Accela project newsletter now reaches **374** people!

*Watch as we expect this number to climb to over
1,000 by the end of the summer!*