

Washington State University Streamlines Business Processes to Gain a Competitive Advantage



ORGANIZATION

Washington State University
www.wsu.edu

INDUSTRY

Education

SOLUTION

- › Imaging/Workflow for Enrollment Management, Registrar, Human Resources & Graduate School

CHALLENGE

- › Application is a complex and multi-phase process
- › Documents come from many sources at different times
- › Sharing of information across many departments and branches was expensive & time consuming
- › Erroneous transactions affected several departments and were laborious to resolve
- › Limited functionality with proprietary capture system
- › Management & implementation by WSU's internal IT staff required flexible and qualified partner

KEY BENEFITS

- › Information can be contributed from remote locations
- › Quick admission response makes the University more competitive
- › Secure repository allows immediate access from multiple locations
- › Infrastructure allows information sharing enterprise-wide
- › Information is accurate & timely, improving services to students
- › Infrastructure will allow other significant business process improvements

“IMAGESOURCE'S FLEXIBLE SERVICE OFFERINGS ALLOW US TO MANAGE AND IMPLEMENT OUR PROJECTS INTERNALLY. THEY PROVIDE EXPERTISE WHEN AND WHERE WE NEED IT, ENSURING OUR SUCCESS.”

– Kathy Cross, Information Manager, Washington State University

Washington State University (WSU) enrolls more than 21,000 undergraduate and graduate students between its main campus in Pullman and its three regional campuses. As Washington's only state-wide university, WSU also has extension offices in all 39 counties, ten regional learning centers, numerous research facilities, and operates 25 Small Business Development Centers. WSU is a leading research institution and offers an Honors College that is rated as one of the best in the nation.

The University realized that in order to stay competitive, exceptional student service and streamlined admission processes to provide quick responses to student applicants would be key. Administrative efficiencies that would allow all branches and departments immediate access to students' records—while still keeping files confidential and organized—would provide tremendous advantage to the academic institution.

ImageSource® Proves a Powerful Partner

WSU has a history of independence regarding IT. The University prefers to keep implementations in-house rather than to outsource projects and integrations.

Starting with Enrollment Management, WSU replaced their outdated manual and paper-intensive admission processing with Oracle Image & Process Management (IPM). This tier one software provided electronic document management and automated workflow to dramatically increase the efficiencies. However, it soon became clear that without a strong partner providing support and maintenance, the system would not

work to its full potential. Frustrated users and departments pushed back.

The University's forward-looking IT department knew they needed a flexible partner—one which would provide exceptional support, maintenance and training, and still allow WSU to do much of the work on their own.

WSU teamed with ImageSource to create, in essence, an extension of the University's IT department. As an integrator of other top-tier Enterprise Content Management technologies, ImageSource could prove valuable in helping WSU extend the capabilities of the Oracle products they had in place.



Making the Admissions Solution Successful

In collaboration with ImageSource, WSU was able to realize the value of Oracle IPM in its initial implementation in Enrollment Management.

Processing a single student's application at WSU is complex and requires numerous steps. An application may remain active for up to two years. Coming in various formats and arriving at different times, transcripts,

test scores, optional narratives or letters of recommendation are also provided with the application. Other documents, such as admission decision letters, are also stored in a student's file. Various departments require access to information in these documents.

When they initially integrated IPM with the existing proprietary capture system, WSU found that the inadequate capability of the older system limited the functionality of IPM.

“NOW WE HAVE A HANDS-ON, IMMEDIATE WAY TO PARTICIPATE IN ADMISSIONS. THIS MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE IN HOW WE COMPETE AS A UNIVERSITY.”

– Wendy Woods, Graduate School, WSU

They worked with ImageSource, providers of best-in-breed capture technology including Kofax Ascent Capture and Fujitsu scanners. ImageSource ILINX® Release Script was implemented to connect Ascent Capture with Oracle IPM. With support unparalleled in the industry, ImageSource guided the WSU IT team to implement a fully functional system for Enrollment Management.

The IPM solution provided storage, indexing, retrieval and workflow processing—admissions application processes are now fully automated. All WSU campuses scan and index their own local documents into the IPM repository, which holds well over 500,000 admission documents. Additionally, WSU has converted a significant number of back-files to electronic documents and stored them in IPM.

Leveraging the Benefits University-Wide

Besides Enrollment Management, various departments have become users of the Enterprise Content Management system: the Registrar's Office, Human Resources and the Graduate School all require ongoing access to student documents.

Leveraging the power of the solution in place, WSU has been able to accelerate information sharing, resulting in a significant cost savings for the university and stron-

ger communication between participating departments and branches.

The system allows more than 400 users at all four campuses to simultaneously and immediately access and view documents from admissions and student records without the paper shuffle and hassle of routing hardcopy documents. Academic advisors and departments can view and print transcripts and other admission documents without calling the Enrollment Management Office for copies.

Regional campuses are processing applications using workflow, permitting admissions documents to be quickly and easily managed and tracked throughout the entire business process. This electronic processing capability has increased the quality of student services and decreased paper volumes.

WSU currently receives a large percentage of both graduate and undergraduate admission applications via the Web. The Graduate School utilizes the system to review applications and make admission decisions.

Additionally, WSU now has the ability to resolve erroneous transactions—such as an incomplete admissions application package—online, in real time, across all users.

Additional Plans to Integrate ECM

Other departments plan to utilize the enterprise infrastructure while users will expand its capabilities to meet specific needs.

As a truly flexible partner, ImageSource is able to provide the specific products and services WSU requires to make each phase successful, further extending the benefits they've already achieved. Through a collaborative relationship, ImageSource has supported WSU's endeavor to build an enterprise-wide infrastructure that provides secure and accurate information sharing, cost savings and a competitive advantage.

Technology

ILINX® IMAGESOURCE ILINX RELEASE SCRIPT

The ILINX Release Script provides a function rich-tool, taking images generated through Kofax Ascent Capture and releasing them to Oracle IPM.
www.imagesourceinc.com

ORACLE® ORACLE® IMAGING & PROCESS MANAGEMENT

The Oracle IPM system proactively and automatically delivers critical business content where and when it is needed. By integrating transaction documents and information into common business processes and third party applications, Oracle IPM drives return on investment (ROI) throughout the organization.
www.oracle.com

KOFAX®

KOFAX® ASCENT CAPTURE INTERNET SERVER

Ascent Capture Internet Server (ACIS) enables organizations to transfer documents and data capture branch offices to a central Ascent Capture installation via a corporate network or the Internet. By embracing distributed capture, organizations can react more quickly to incoming information, reduce costs, enhance security and improve productivity versus paper-based processes.
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