

Business Challenge

CYFD, New Mexico was facing the challenge that most organizations face; spaghetti of legacy systems, monolithic applications, huge time to implement changes and maintenance nightmare. Being a government organization, CYFD could not afford huge number of developers to maintain its systems. Moreover, all the stakeholders were still thinking in “application islands” approach.

CYFD CTO was convinced that they need to adopt Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) principles. However, convincing and getting a buy-in from all the stakeholders was not an easy task.

Client

Children, Youth and Family Department (CYFD) – New Mexico

Solution

Torry Harris was approached to solve this business challenge.

Our solution consisted of two important steps:

1. Education on SOA principles and technologies and getting a buy-in from the stakeholders
2. Understanding existing systems and come up with SOA roadmap for CYFD

Education on SOA

Torry Harris devised a training plan targeting all the stakeholders who were performing different functions like architecture, business analysis, software development, testing and front-end development. At the end of the training, a proof-of-concept was delivered by implementing one of the use cases. The use case was developed entirely by CYFD developers and within three days of time. This was a significant achievement compared to the amount of time it used to take to implement the same on legacy platforms. The proof-of-concept was demonstrated to different stakeholders and they were impressed by the result. At the end of the training, people had learnt and demonstrated the benefits of using service orientation principles. This helped to get a buy-in from all the stakeholders.

SOA Roadmap

The second dimension to Torry Harris solution was to understand the existing CYFD application landscape and come up with a SOA roadmap. Torry Harris followed the structured approach to come up with CYFD SOA roadmap.

1. Gather information about existing applications

Torry Harris planned and conducted interviews with CTO, architects, developers and support personnel to understand the existing applications, technologies, their connectivity, life cycle and time required to make changes, and issues in support.

2. Define architecture for these applications based on SOA principles

The next phase of CYFD roadmap consisted of definition of a new architecture aligning to SOA principles. The architecture took into account the investment made and leverage the existing applications where we can.

3. Demonstration of the new architecture by a proof-of-concept implementation

Torry Harris implemented a proof-of-concept application demonstrating the SOA architectural principles and technologies.

Business Benefits

At the end of one month assignment, Torry Harris had achieved the goal of educating CYFD stakeholders on SOA and getting their buy-in and devising a SOA road map for CYFD applications. CTO expressed great satisfaction to see thinking in terms of services and their reuse in their design discussions. This was a major step forward to implement the CYFD applications in service oriented manner.