

Advansys Formativ and Klagenfurt University

www.novell.com

SUCCESS STORY

Overall Benefit: Key business process automation and collaborative workflow with Novell® GroupWise® and Advansys Formativ*

BACKGROUND

Advansys is a leading Novell ISV development partner with 12 years of development experience to GroupWise. Their latest product, Advansys Formativ, provides an integrated, fast and inexpensive means for enhancing and tailoring GroupWise to meet specific business and functional requirements. Formativ's powerful GroupWise development environment encompasses applet creation and recording, simplified yet full-featured GroupWise programming and extensive 'point and click' integration capabilities with the GroupWise client.

THE SITUATION

The University of Klagenfurt in southern Austria provides approximately 8,000 students with access to degreed courses in philosophy, education, history, languages, applied mathematics, geography, computer science, business administration, mathematics and economics. Klagenfurt University had long relied on an outdated, error-prone purchasing system of manual checks and balances

that often included lengthy delays as purchase requests were printed and then routed interoffice from person to person, building to building and desk to desk. It wasn't unusual for an individual order to take up to three months to complete, and errors were common.

"Our goal was to develop a campus-wide purchasing workflow that was easy to implement, easy to extend and easy to use for end users," notes Michael Menard, assistant director of IT management at the University. "We considered pre-packaged workflow solutions, but they were expensive and far too complex to be an interim solution for connecting to a SAP® MM (Materials Management) Module. We recognized that many of the core services provided in GroupWise could be used in the procurement solution. In addition, our users were comfortable using the GroupWise environment. GroupWise was the obvious choice, but we needed a way to customize it to meet our needs. So, we went shopping for a GroupWise-compatible solution and found Advansys Formativ."

N

"Formativ is the ideal tool for creating collaborative business solutions and enhancing the value of our GroupWise implementation."

—Michael Menard,
Assistant Director,
Service/Software
Management Department,
University of Klagenfurt

Novell.



THE SOLUTION

"Formativ is the ideal tool for creating collaborative business solutions and enhancing the value of our GroupWise implementation," says Menard.

"With Formativ, it only took our team two weeks to implement the necessary additions to GroupWise to support the procurement system. And virtually no end user training was needed because they are familiar with the GroupWise interface. The entire system uses one GroupWise folder and all the order mails are processed with rules and stored in the folder. With everything in one folder in the user's inbox, it is a much better approach that reduces ordering expenses, telephone calls and confusion about order status. We minimized the wait for ordering and routing deliveries of equipment to the campus. After just three months, we went from a month for fulfilling an order to three or four days. In fact, the system performs so well that the whole university is now using it. This was easy to achieve using Formativ's integrated GroupWise development tool, which enabled rapid construction and delivery of the solution without the need for additional programming languages or installation programs."

"Today, all of our ordering is indexed and maintained on a single GroupWise server, which is very fast," says Menard. "We currently have around

4000 orders in spreadsheets stored in a search folder. We used Formativ to provide check boxes for users who have a specific responsibility, such as order checking, completing empty fields, or inserting cost figures. We also know at a glance which orders have arrived, or are finished. A Formativ applet goes through all the current orders, looking in the spreadsheets for all the procurement details, converting the data to an Access database, writing data from GroupWise to the Access library. We can then filter the data for expenses, delivery dates and specific costs."

CONCLUSION

With Advansys Formativ, Klagenfurt University administrators, staff and faculty now enjoy faster procurement times and greatly improved order handling procedures that are easy to understand and use. Through tight integration with GroupWise, Formativ provides Klagenfurt University with all the tools and resources necessary to rapidly deliver a campus-wide procurement solution, as well as collaborative applications and process management solutions that are ready for the demands of tomorrow.

For more information, please visit www.advansyscorp.com and www.novell.com/nterprise.

© 2003 Novell Inc. All rights reserved. Novell, the Novell logo and GroupWise are registered trademarks of Novell, Inc. in the United States and other countries.

*Formativ is a trademark of Advansys Pty. Ltd. SAP is a registered trademark of SAP AG. All other third-party trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Novell Product Training and Support Services

For more information about Novell's worldwide product training, certification programs, consulting and technical support services, please visit: www.novell.com/ngage

For More Information

For more information about Novell's developer resources, training, certification programs and technical support, please visit: developer.novell.com

You may also call Novell at:

1 888 321 4272 US/Canada
1 801 861 4272 Worldwide
1 801 861 8473 Facsimile

Novell, Inc.
1800 South Novell Place
Provo, Utah 84606 USA

www.novell.com

