

REAL ESTATE – Underwriting Portal

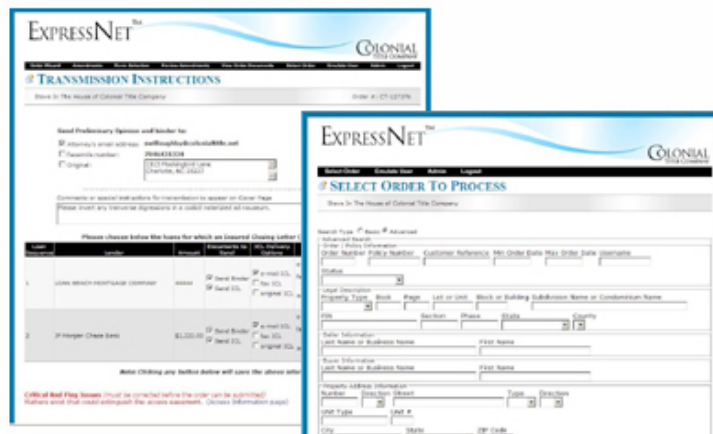
Overview

Charlotte, North Carolina-based Colonial Title Company is an independent title insurance agency, providing both purchasers and lenders of commercial and residential properties in the Carolinas with commitments to title insurance, insured closing letters and policies of title insurance.



Business Needs

Colonial Title had hired an outside firm to develop a web-based application called ExpressNet™. After numerous delays and severe cost overruns, Colonial Title elected to bring the final stages of development in-house by contracting with a local IT staffing firm to provide development resources. Further complicating the application's completion, Colonial Title experienced turnover with its contract help, thus adding further delay. In order to get the project back on track, Colonial Title hired Logical Advantage to utilize its Project Rescue services by performing an independent audit of ExpressNet's™ core architecture and coding structure, as well as a detailed skills assessment of its remaining contract developer.



Strategy

Logical Advantage conducted a high-level code review of Colonial Title's ExpressNet™ application. The focus of the review was the architecture's ability to scale, perform and code practices employed in the creation of the application. In parallel with this effort, Logical Advantage provided a comprehensive IRIS™ technical screening of Colonial's remaining developer. Based upon this high level review, we discovered that the ExpressNet™ application was generally constructed in a logical fashion. There were areas, however, that could cause potential long-term issues such as maintainability, scalability and performance. These issues included:

- An extensive use of Session State in the web application, which was not conducive to a scalable application
- Extensive employment of inline SQL in a web service, increasing maintenance difficulty, further decreasing scalability, and introducing security concerns
- Too much of the application's Business Logic coded in the presentation layer. This logic needed to be centralized to reduce inconsistencies in results and to simplify maintenance.
- A frustratingly long Document Generation process (a key element of the application) which needed to be more user-friendly and with much fewer "time-out" errors
- An absence of coding standards, due to the large number of developers who had worked on the application over time
- Several areas of the code that contained a high level of complexity. These needed to be refactored into less complex code to ease future maintenance and expandability.

Benefits

As a result of the code review and skills assessment, Logical Advantage made a series of beneficial recommendations. Based upon the skill level of their resources and the complexity of the work, we counseled Colonial Title to hire a more senior development resource if they wished to keep development in-house. Instead, Colonial Title engaged Logical Advantage to address several of their higher pain points, to refresh the user interface and to deploy the application successfully into production.

About Logical Advantage

Logical Advantage is an award-winning, full-service Information Technology consulting and application outsourcing company. We are dedicated to providing high-quality, cost-effective custom software development and consulting services. We specialize in mastering complex business challenges, delivering mission critical solutions backed by our deep expertise and proficiency in Microsoft® technologies.