# Low Income Weatherization in Ohio

Mobility Conference 2016 Alex Bratt, Julie Scrivner- EnergySavvy



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3	Project Details
4	Lessons Learned

### EnergySavvy at a glance

Cloud software company bringing DSM into the 21st century



#### **Quick Facts**

- 25+ utility/DSM clients
- 100% cloud software
- Offices in Seattle, Boston; Satellites in San Francisco, Chicago, Raleigh
- Founded in 2008
- > 475,000 completed online audits
- > 100,000 completed projects



### The World is Changing





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#### **Optix** ENGAGE Outreach to passive customers **CUSTOMER** Engagement of active customers • **ENGAGEMENT** Ongoing engagement Segmentation & **Customer Enrollment Continuous Engagement OPTIX QUANTIFY MEASURE ACTUAL SAVINGS** Energy usage changes • Regulatory reporting Program optimization **Project Completion** Capacity planning



#### **OPTIX MANAGE** PROGRAM AUTOMATION

### **& PORTFOLIO TRACKING**

- Mass market and C&I
- In house or outsourced
- Data aggregation & validation

### Low Income Weatherization 分分分

with Columbia Gas of Ohio

### What is low-income weatherization?

Columbia Gas of Ohio WarmChoice Program

- Cost-effective energy efficiency measures for existing residential and multifamily housing with low-income residents.
  - Target home's heating and cooling systems, electrical system, and electricity consuming appliances.
- Columbia Gas of Ohio runs a low-income weatherization program called Warm Choice.
  - Funds 4 different providers in Ohio that inspect and retrofit homes
- EnergySavvy was hired to automate this program with the goals of reducing paper, repeat data entry, and manual reporting. Our software provides the opportunity for more insights into the Warm Choice program, cleaner data and project management.

### Home Inspections

#### **Offline Forms Use Case**

- Inspectors visit the home for a pre-work audit
  - Take multiple measurements and make recommendations
  - Approximately 100 inspectors in Ohio
- Inspections are often taking place in rural neighborhoods with sparse internet access
- Based on inspection data inspectors generate recommended work orders
- Final inspections are completed post upgrade to verify work was completed correctly



### Form Tool Requirements

- Large scale data collection 500+ fields  $\checkmark$
- State required data standards
- Offline capabilities
- Multi- Platform ✓
- System Integration ✓
- Data Validation ✓



Final Inspectio	Home		Next Page >			
Project ID 425	Inspection Type WC	•	Type of Final Inspection t Heating			
FirstName			<u>,</u>	Previous Page	Home	Next Page >
John				Heating Final: Generation	al	
Last Name Doe				Date of Heating Inspection *	Name of Heating Contractor *	Was a Contractor Sticker Installed onto the HU or WH? *
Street Address						Y
123 Main St				Heating Unit(s) present? *	Water Heater(s) present?	Non-electric stove(s) present?
Street Address two				N Y	N Y	Y Y
City Toledo				Required if heating unit present (u	ID to 4):	N/A
State				TYPEFUELMAKEMODELSE	RIALRATEINOUTPUTDTEMP	RISEDLOCATIONCOLIVEACT
Ohio						
Zip Code 45254				Add Heating Unit	Edit Heating Unit	Delete Heating Unit
Phone	Back up contact number	Email		Add Heating Onit	Edit Heating offic	Delete Heating offic
781-542-8989		john@gmail.co	m	Required if water heater present (		MEETSCODECODECOMMEN
nspector Name						MEETSCODECOMMEN
Bob the Builder						
Eligible Programs WC				Add Water Heater	Edit Water Heater	Delete Water Heater
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				Add Stove	Edit Stove	Delete Stove

### **Design of Forms**

#### How to create two new forms (65 & 35 pages)?

- Previous pen and paper form hundreds of sheets of paper
  - Often required duplicate data entry very cumbersome
  - No way to validate data in forms, each office was collecting a unique set of information
- During implementation of Mi-Forms solution, forms were designed from the ground up
  - Mi-Forms Developer tool allowed us the flexibility for multiple iterations
  - Ability to synchronize the data that is collected across all providers
- New forms included data validations and calculations directly within the app
- Shana greatly supported initial content design process

### Multi-Platform Use

#### Forms used on Windows, iOS, and Android

- Validation rules automatically generate operating system specific code
- Customized code:
  - Creation of 'sub-forms' on all operating systems using reuse page function
  - Calculations
  - Page navigation
- David and Chris available and highly responsive for technical form design support



## Integration with Optix – The "Session Uploader"

#### **REST API**

- Mi-Forms directly integrates with our enterprise software via REST API
  - Forms are generated automatically as tasks are created in Optix
  - When a form is completed, the information is directly uploaded into our system in both PDF and XML
    - Critical XML data is then available for reporting purposes
  - Old forms are cleaned up when the status changes in Optix
    - This makes for a smooth experience for our customers
- Making form data available online gives program managers greater insight into how projects are doing into the program at any given point – no more waiting on the mail or for monthly status report

### **User Guides**

#### How to guide user adoption

- EnergySavvy created in-depth user guides for multi-platforms
- Content:
  - How Mi-Forms connects to the IMS
  - Platform functionality
  - Form functionality
  - Form Content
- Launching with many of users simultaneously



### **Challenges and Lessons Learned**

- Computer literacy of user is important
  - Robust documentation
  - Easy download package
  - Lots of training
- Designing a very large form can be a challenge
  - Form configuration in code for multi-platform is extensive
    - Many functions to replicate in Visual Basic and Javascript
  - Larger amount of components and validation rules can slow down functionality
    - Forms have to 'think' more
- Integration of distinct software for the first time has its challenges
  - Run into unexpected user scenarios when product is live
  - Need to work in an agile environment in cooperation with Mi-Forms

### Questions?

### Thank You

