

Scanning Book Services Application

Client Company is a product Development Company from Nederland, leader in Accounting and Tax management solutions for SME's and Accounting Firms. The company's core product offering is a fully integrated suite of applications, including Online document scanning and uploading, Document workflow based on document type and BPO Management.

The Vision

The Project Scanning Book Services application is developed to achieve scanning and uploading of documents (Single or in Batch), integration with existing accounting systems and interface to other third party applications.

Application Overview

SBS provides B2B solution for SME's and Accounting Firms. It also provide SDK interface to third party systems like Account View system to integrate with Scanning Book Services (SBS).

Desired features:

The following major features were desired in the Screen Scraping Application:

- Online single and multipage scanning of documents using TWAIN drivers in Portal as well as SDK support.
- User authentication and authorization in Portal as well as Software Development Kit (SDK) support.
- Ability to control user access on document type and functionality level
- Document workflow automatic and manual management with the help of Financial Process Outsourcing (FPO).
- Image improvement, processing, compression and OCRing.
- Complex filter support to view required business information by applying data filters.
- Rich internet application web user interface using EXT JS.

- Impressive portal implementation to support User registration, password reminder facility, document preview with transaction details, document process queue management, view documents as per process and types, filters on each grid with pagination, searching sorting, Manage Subscriptions, organizations, users, ledger s and sectors.
- Email communication support for various business flow requirement with FPO, SME and Accounting forms.
- Scheduler support to perform automatic scheduling of document improvement, OCRing and compression.
- User state persistence of last view, operations or preferences.
- Multi theme support to select user preferred theme.
- Multi- language and multi-currency support for portal.
- Inter-FPO communication module based on document support.
- Ability to search and fetch organization information from global repository to organizations.
- Web service SDK support for all important modules.
- Global financial standard, XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language) was used for sending invoices to third party system.

Technologies and Tools

J2EE Architecture was followed as following technologies exactly fit in our development needs. It provides following benefits:

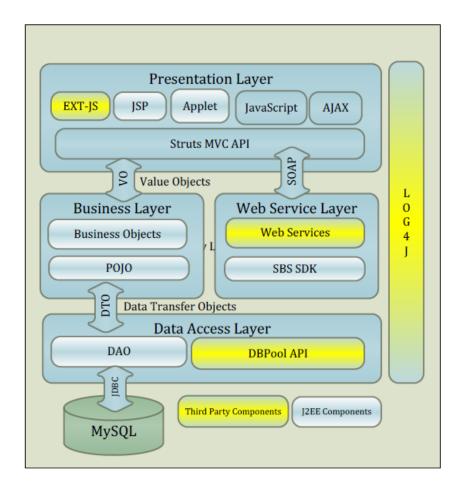
- Large number of packages, tools, techniques, design frameworks, IDEs, testing methodologies gives the architectural flexibility
- Simplicity and long term viability
- Portability and Scalability
- Application Security
- Large number of deployment support tools

Technologies

Presentation Layer:

- Ext JS: Ext JS library for providing rich user interface, client has purchased licenses based on our recommendation. Ext JS is a cross -browser JavaScript library to build rich internet applications and in it customizable UI widgets and extensible component model.
 - In our project we have used following Ext JS components
 - o Ext JS Editable Grid
 - Ext JS tab structure screens
 - o Ext JS Tree
 - Ext JS Toolbar
- JSP: All presentation components are written as Java Server Pages (JSP). These pages are basically HTML pages with embedded JSP functionality. These pages are free to contain JavaScript or any other front-end scripting tool.

Applet: To scan document in the web page using TWAIN driver, this applet also supports
multipage scanning, image rotating and resizing.



Business Logic:

- JAVA: All business logic and back-end processing is written in Java. JavaBeans are used wherever
 appropriate to enforce data encapsulation. In general a JavaBean contains both the data and the
 business logic for each entity.
- Struts: Struts application development framework is used to enforce the Model -View- Controller (MVC) approach to development. This approach allows for the separation of presentation and business logic.
- JSON: JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) is a lightweight data-interchange format. It is easy for humans to read and write. It is easy for machines to parse and generate.

Web Service Layer:

Apache AXIS Web Services: To take an advantage of decupling principle of best design practices
and provide easy simple SDK interface to third party system web service layer is introduced using
AXIS API.

Data Access Layer:

- JDBC: Data Access layer using JDBC
- DB Pool: A Java-based database connection pooling utility, which supports time-based expiry and statement caching, connection validation, and easy configuration using a pool manager.
 Also included is a generic object pool which can be extended to create your own pools of custom types.

Backend:

MySQL 5.1

Browser Support:

- IE 7.0 and above
- Firefox 3.0 and above
- Safari and Google Chrome

Web server:

Tomcat

Supported Deployment Platforms:

- Windows 2000
- Windows 2003

Tools

- Eclipse: Eclipse is a multi-language software development environment comprising an integrated development environment (IDE) and an extensible plug-in system. This is very helpful for rapid application development.
- PMD: Automatic code review product is used to minimize code review time and improve development efficiency and reduce defect density per code lines.
- ER Studio and SQLyog: These tools improve the productivity of developers and DBAs by
 providing an easy-to-use development environment. Using this tool we have managed MySQL
 database.
- Ant: We have used Ant to automate building application. It facilitates compiling, packaging, and preparing programs for execution.
- VietOCR/ABBYY API: This API's are used to OCRed document t and extract image data into textual format to analyze document type and accounting purpose information.

Challenges and Solutions

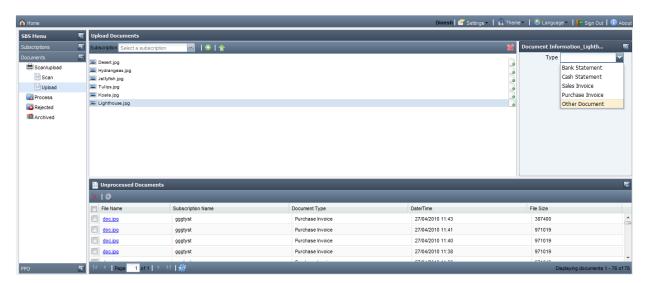
1. Tightly constrained project schedule

- a. e-Zest had provided accurate estimations and followed highly disciplined project management practices.
- b. e-Zest had provided onsite resources to speed up the requirement gathering process and QA support
- c. e-Zest had provided complete transparency to customer which helped for better reporting, monitoring and controlling of project execution
- d. Look and feel was made consistent with client's other products e. Following are the challenges
 - i. Using ExtJS Technology for UI Development
 - ii. Designing reusable UI components to avoid rework

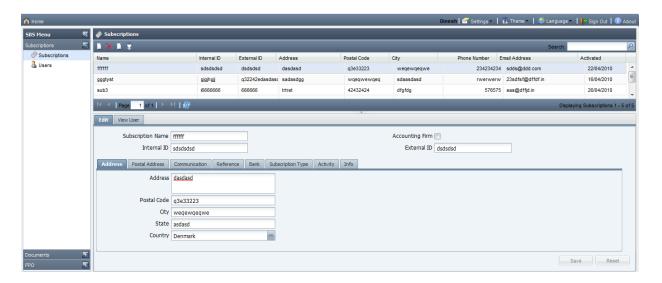
Solution Provided

See below some screen shots where e-Zest had made User interface more intuitive and consistent. See some complex screens below, we have made them users friendly. UI shown in different themes.

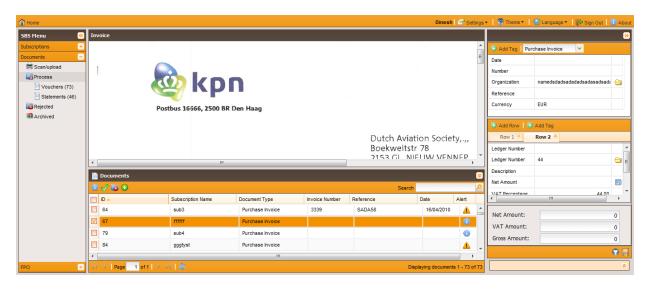
• Scan/Upload Screen

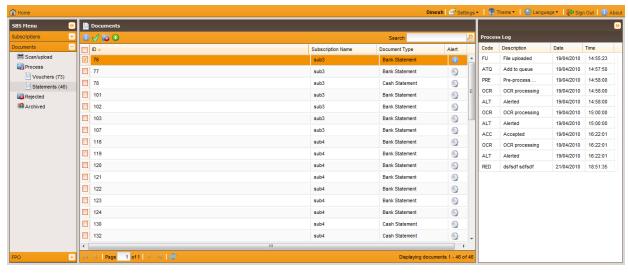


• Subscription Screen



Transaction panel(Document) View





• User's Screen

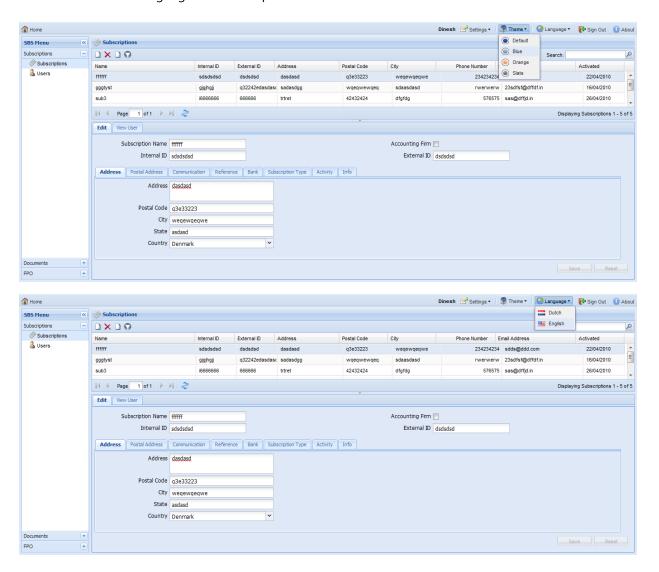


Organization Screen





• Theme and Language selection options Screens



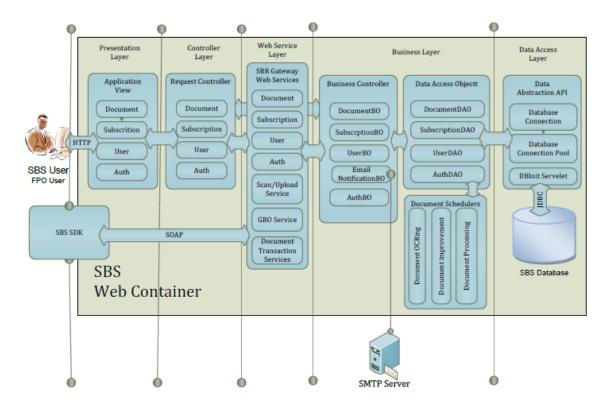
To assure consistent look and feel through the application, we used Template based approached.

Team had grasped ExtJS very fast and prepared some sample which is ready to use for other team members.

Solution Architecture

The SBS follows the MVC (Model View Controller) approach to development. This approach separates all of the presentation logic, business logic, and application logic. At e-Zest we used Struts framework from the Apache Software Foundation to enforce this approach. The front-end of the application is written in JSP with ExtJS components and Applet. In addition, JavaScript is used where necessary. The server-side of the application is written using Java 1.6 Standard Edition (J2 SE) and components from Java 2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE). Java Beans are used to store the data for the applications. e-Zest evaluated five open sources and paid OCRing tools and recommended VietOCR APis for OCRing of applications. The drawing

below illustrates the general structure of the application and the division between the model, view, and controller components.



Technical Breakthroughs

- Effectively used ExtJS to build rich user interface.
- Web based document Scanning solution using TWAIN Drivers
- OCRing and Image improvement solutions
- BPO support for Document flow management.
- Code optimization to improve auto schedule process performance
- Code consolidation for constraints, configuration rules and preferences so that user can get consistent results.
- Data dictionary implementation to easy support for customer product version migration and product upgrade

Bottom Line

e-Zest out performed in the project evolution phase carried out by the client at the start of the project to analyze the capabilities in terms of commitments and work quality. This helped to build a strong and long term relationship with the client. Enterprise level product development with in-depth understanding of client's business focus, needs and constraints and complete sense of ownership of project by each team member. This resulted in a m usually profitable and constantly growing relationship bringing in business stability to both client and e-Zest.

