

ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION SOLUTION

A Major Medical Diagnostics Company

Case Study

Operating Benefits

The integrated Niku-Research Database delivered operating results superior to what could have been achieved with either system alone:

- The identification of research team members, and the teams they were associated with, was fully supported within Niku, providing for direct correlation of activities managed by Niku and those managed by the Research Database scheduling algorithms and business rules
 - The user's were able to continue to use the custom search and formatting capabilities provided by the Research Database
 - The ability to provide rich format in meeting agendas and meeting notes maintained the high quality documents the user community had come to expect
 - The custom forms and fields, fully supported by Niku, provided the data needed to integrate the scheduling facilities of Niku with the unique algorithms in the research database without the need for complex form/database development
 - Niku was established as the "System of Record" for all resource, team and scheduling data while the Research Database continued in its specialized role providing context sensitive search and composition capabilities
-

The Problem

A major medical diagnostics company had developed a custom database to capture and manage information describing its advanced research projects. With the deployment of Niku's Project Portfolio Management System, new levels of staff coordination, resource management, scheduling and project tracking sophistication were at hand. To leverage the power of Niku's Portfolio Management capabilities, while providing the specialized research-oriented subject matter expertise contained in the research database, a custom integration of these two parallel, but divergent enterprise systems, was needed.

Business Challenge

The company realized that any successful achievement of global staff resources optimization would be dependent upon a coordinated integration of these two specialized systems. The research database had been developed over a number of years to not only track the status and business processes associated with the conduct of advanced medical research, but to provide related management documentation such as meeting agendas and meeting notes. While the Custom Fields and User Defined Forms of Niku 6 could be configured to handle much of the status information (e.g., dates, status categories, etc.) and research committee membership information, the manipulation and dissemination of formatted text was best handled by the special functions available in the "Research Database". The Research Database was implemented as using Microsoft ACCESS in a client/server configuration using an extensive amount of custom programming.

The Solution

Xinify Solutions Group in partnership with Niku designed and implemented a real-time integration between Niku 6.1.4 and the Research Database. Niku Professional Services worked with the Research Database team to identify the data elements that could successfully be supported within Niku and those that would remain in the Research Database. Xinify's Information Architects then established the integrated system architecture.

