



Flying Warthog – Documentum Integration

Syngenta – a global agrochemicals company – has been enthusiastically using the Tessella-developed Flying Warthog Risk Assessment System for a number of years. Over this time, it has been used to produce more than 50,000 risk assessment and supporting documents, which are stored on a LAN and indexed in the Flying Warthog Oracle database.

Business problem

Syngenta's business practices have recently evolved to encompass the storage of risk assessment, and other business critical documents, in Syngenta's implementation of the Documentum Document Management System. This change in working practice presented the challenge of seamlessly integrating Flying Warthog with Documentum.

Tessella solution

The first task was to identify all of the different types of interaction that Flying Warthog could make with its existing LAN-based document archive, so that this could then be used to identify what requirements an interface to Documentum would have to fulfil. This was achieved by refactoring the existing code so that all archive operations were routed through and fulfilled by a set of methods in a single 'repository access' class. An additional benefit

of defining a clean interface between Warthog and its archive is that, once proven, it permits the testing of a component to integrate Warthog with any document archive to purely focus on the fulfilment of the interface – not requiring the whole system to be tested.

When Warthog's archive requirements had been identified, the next task was to appraise the various programmatic interfaces available for Documentum and to identify the one which would offer the best fit to Flying Warthog and Syngenta's systems strategy. The Documentum .NET Primary Interop Assembly (PIA) ... which is built on top of the native JAVA Document Foundation Classes API ... was selected as the ideal candidate. It is feature rich, and well performing, and could be built into a .NET assembly, which could be registered for COM interoperability to enable it to be used by Flying Warthog (which is written in Visual Basic).



Once the Documentum access component had been written, and its interface tested, it was a straightforward task to integrate this with Warthog and thus interface Warthog with Documentum.

Document import enhancement

Soon after the deployment of the Documentum-enabled Flying Warthog, a change in working practices meant that much larger risk assessment documents (few GBs) were to be archived, but due to the remote deployment of the Documentum content servers, the import times for these documents were proving to be unacceptably slow. This was overcome by adding a local file upload cache to Warthog into which documents can get written much more quickly than if they are imported straight into Documentum. A separate Windows service, which uses the Documentum interface component then picks up import jobs and loads them into Documentum off-line, with larger files sidelined for overnight import. The location of all files is recorded in the Flying Warthog database, so files which have not yet been imported to Documentum get seamlessly opened from the import cache.

Benefits

All risk assessment documents created by the Flying Warthog are now seamlessly stored in Documentum.

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