



EGL CASE STUDY: Streamlining Illinois State University's Application Submission process

The Challenge:

To streamline the undergraduate application form submission process for Illinois State University. The University used to hand out paper forms to students which were hand filled and submitted to the university where data from the form was fed to IBM System z through various offices.

The Solution:

To develop a web based interface for the application form, where students could enter their data and that data would be transported via a web service to the IBM System z.

Benefits:

The need for a paper based form system was eliminated and any chance of error in data entry was now removed, as the data was validated on the client side and the student could always change his/her data before the final submission. Half filled applications could now be saved on the mainframe and updated/submitted anytime. Another advantage was the elimination of the manual data entry by the university staff upon receiving the paper application which was always prone to human errors.

Details:

The Illinois State University (referred to as ISU hereafter) had a paper based form for undergraduate students to apply for their graduation. The form needed to be filled by hand and then submitted to the university where it would pass through 2 to 3 different offices and the data from the form would then be fed to an IBM System z. Our task was to assist the ISU in streamlining and 'webifying' the entire process as the old process involved 2-3 steps and was error prone and cumbersome.

The most expeditious way to do it was, obviously, using RDz and EGL. Using RDz, a webservice was created that encapsulated the different data entry operations on the System z. Next, using EGL, a web interface was designed for the application form. Client side validation was used to prevent the students from entering invalid data.

The student was required to enter his/her ID number on the webpage. Upon entry of a valid ID number, some of the relevant data about that particular student (For example City, State, and Program etc.) were automatically filled on the webpage.

JSF pages were used to design the client interface and using EGL's JSF handler, the business logic was written that validated all the form fields and submitted data to the mainframe. Upon the entry of an ID number, the webservice would fetch the details of the particular student and upon submission of the form; the webservice would submit the data to the mainframe.

To learn more about our Rational HATS Training and Development services, visit www.webspherehatsguru.com or contact us on **Tel: 1-630-355-6292** (Mon to Fri – 8am to 6pm)



© Copyright IBM Corporation 2010
IBM Global Services
Route 100
Somers, NY 10589
U.S.A.
Produced in the United States of America
08-10
All Rights Reserved

IBM, the IBM logo, ibm.com, Lotus®, Rational®, Tivoli®, DB2® and WebSphere® are trademarks or registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation in the United States, other countries, or both. If these and other IBM trademarked terms are marked on their first occurrence in this information with a trademark symbol (® or ™), these symbols indicate U.S. registered or common law trademarks owned by IBM at the time this information was published. Such trademarks may also be registered or common law trademarks in other countries. A current list of IBM trademarks is available on the Web at "Copyright and trademark information" at ibm.com/legal/copytrade.shtml Other company, product and service names may be trademarks or service marks of others. The information contained in this documentation is provided for informational purposes only. While efforts were made to verify the completeness and accuracy of the information contained in this documentation, it is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, express or implied. In addition, this information is based on IBM's current product plans and strategy, which are subject to change by IBM without notice. IBM shall not be responsible for any damages arising out of the use of, or otherwise related to, this documentation or any other documentation. Nothing contained in this documentation is intended to, nor shall have the effect of, creating any warranties or representations from IBM (or its suppliers or licensors), or altering the terms and conditions of the applicable license agreement governing the use of IBM software. This document illustrates how one organization uses IBM products. Many factors have contributed to the results and benefits described; IBM does not guarantee comparable results elsewhere.