

ePartners and VNA of Texas Replace Mainframe System with Microsoft Dynamics GP

The Visiting Nurse Association of Texas (VNA) is one of the nation's premiere nonprofit home healthcare organizations. With 1,100 employees, VNA operates from its headquarters in Dallas and from four branch locations in Ft. Worth, Denton, McKinney, and Kaufman. VNA's broad healthcare offerings include home care, hospice, maternal and children's services, and long-term care.

VNA was running its business operations on an aging AS400 mainframe and wanted to replace that legacy system. The company's top requirements for new systems were excellent usability, alignment with a Microsoft-oriented technology strategy, and lower operating costs.

The Solution

VNA attended an ePartners seminar that compared Microsoft's Great Plains, Axapta, and Solomon applications. Through that evaluation process, VNA determined that Great Plains would best fit their needs and contracted ePartners to deploy and integrate Great Plains with their patient information management system, billing and AR system. The implementation included the General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Asset Management, Cash Management, Purchase Order Processing, Payroll, and Human Resources modules. The project included data migration from the AS400 platform, which VNA retired for immediate savings in hardware, software, and operating system maintenance costs.

Business Benefits

VNA realized an important aspect of its overall technology strategy by deploying a Microsoft system, which allowed it to consolidate multiple applications onto a single enterprise database platform, the Microsoft SQL Server Enterprise Edition.

VNA significantly lowered operating costs by replacing the AS400 mainframe with Great Plains. Savings came from replacing the mainframe with low-cost client/server systems, lower software costs and easily available technical expertise.

VNA's CIO Wyatt Davis commented, "People who were used to the legacy system were resistant at first to the change, but we are seeing our users gain familiarity and confidence with the new system. The financial reporting capabilities are strong, and Great Plains offers better tools at a lower cost."

Future Plans

VNA is planning to integrate Great Plains with Misys Homecare, an advanced home care automation system. The company has also purchased the Great Plains Business Portal for staff functions like pay stub distribution, vacation requests, and time off balances, and will use Sharepoint Portal Server for organization-wide information sharing.

Solution

- > Microsoft Great Plains (General Ledger, AP, Asset Management, Cash Management, Payroll and HR)
- > Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Microsoft SQL Server 2000, Microsoft Office
- > Great Plains Business Portal
- > eConnect
- > Future: Misys Homecare, Sharepoint Portal Server

Industries

Nonprofit, Healthcare

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