

Missouri State University

Empowering the Workforce and Improving Communication to the Campus Community: Achieved with ODS and Argos

Challenge

Missouri State University needed to make it easier for its faculty and staff to generate operational and ad-hoc reports. Some of these reports contained sensitive data which made information security a major concern. They also wanted to have a comprehensive set of tools that could generate dashboards and other summary reports which would quickly provide information to individuals at all levels.

Solution

SunGard's Operational Data Store (ODS) and Evisions' Argos software packages provide the answer to Missouri State's reporting requirements.

The purpose of the ODS is to provide a dataset that is easier and more efficient to query than the production tables. Using the ODS for reporting prevents production response-time issues that can be caused by long-running queries. The ODS provides enterprise-wide data for operational and ad hoc reporting with a consistent view of institutional data. In addition, the ODS allows more people to be designers and facilitates the use of Online Analytical Processing (OLAP). For these reasons, Missouri State uses the ODS as their primary query and reporting source.

To maximize the return on their investment in the Operational Data Store, Missouri State partnered with Evisions and purchased the Argos Enterprise Reporting Solution. Argos has been very well received by the Missouri State University community. Missouri State purchased the Evisions' Argos software in April 2008 and in less than a year Argos was rolled out campus wide.

Since roll-out, Missouri State has developed over 300 production reports and have trained:

- 70+ DataBlock Designers
- 156+ Report Writers
- 1,000+ Faculty/Staff Viewers

With unlimited Argos user licenses, Missouri State has been able to distribute and take full advantage of the ODS. Missouri State likes the English names for the fields in ODS and Argos' ability to add additional aliases. Calculations and flags such as GPA and Registered (Y/N) are easier to find with Argos. Basic users find the Argos visual designer



Missouri State

Missouri State University

Main Location: Springfield, MO

Type: Public 4 Year Institution

Campuses: 3

Students: 22,000+

Faculty/Staff: 2,000+

Undergraduate Majors: 150+

Graduate Programs: 45+

Year Founded: 1905

Note: Missouri's 2nd Largest University

www.missouristate.edu

“ We needed to improve our ability to produce ad hoc reports including dashboards for decision-makers. We wanted to empower our staff to easily generate any report that they needed to service our university and students. ”

Theresa McCoy

Coordinator of Management Information Systems

Snap Shot: Missouri State University

Solution (cont.)

to be helpful in generating simple queries. More experienced users are able to add more sophisticated SQL to generate more complicated queries and reports. Because Argos is web based, campus-wide roll-out was relatively straightforward.

Missouri State uses Argos in a variety of departments and for a variety of uses including:

- Unofficial transcripts to faculty advisors
- Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) reporting
- YTD financial summary reports
- Reports in Finance, HR, Student Information and IR
- Financial Aid – Automated reporting such as spring packaging reports and student loan reporting
- Argos OLAP to present census data instead of static PDF files

Missouri State makes use of public and private folders for development and production purposes. They also take advantage of Argos' security capability to fine tune access to sensitive information. Missouri State developed their own training classes and also uses Evisions' live and recorded Argos trainings. The users and technical team are happy with Argos and the things they can do with it.

“Argos has made it easier to provide information to the campus community.”

Katherine Coy

Director of Institutional Research



About Argos

Making sense of all of your data is a necessary and typically painful task. Evisions takes your pain away with Argos, our enterprise reporting solution. You need access to information in order to make better and timelier decisions. Argos provides the insight you need in a single, feature-rich, user-friendly, easily implemented tool. Argos effectively meets reporting needs from simple ad-hoc queries to advanced dashboards and data cubes, while taking the majority of the workload off of your IT department. Argos offers the lowest total cost of ownership with its enterprise license allowing for an unlimited number of users, database types and connections. Evisions focus on the speed and ease of implementations means you can realize the benefits of Argos quickly. With an unlimited number of users, you can roll out all types of reporting to your users without additional cost. Utilizing the Evisions CO-OP User Community, an on-line library that allows Argos users to collaborate and share DataBlocks and reports, you can start reporting out of the box.

For more information about Argos, please visit: www.evisions.com/argos



Enterprise Reporting Solution

About Evisions

Evisions has been building great products and delivering fantastic service since 1998. We have always maintained our unique approach to software development and our passion for doing business the "Evisions Way". We look beyond the obvious to find the bigger solution - the one that tackles our clients most pressing needs, both now and well into the future. Everything we do – our research, products, services and support - is geared towards ensuring the success of our clients. We truly believe great relationships make all the difference and that our clients are part of the Evisions team. Over 800 organizations worldwide use our products including ones in Higher Education, K12, Utilities and Government.

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