

# Payroll Portal – An automated system to put government employees in control of their own personnel-payroll data

*Information Strategies assisted with the migration of the Office of Personnel Management human resources portal to the Microsoft .NET architecture.*

## BACKGROUND

For HR departments in charge of supporting hundreds, thousands, or even more employees, it is burdensome to manage employee data with paper forms or excel spreadsheets. An automated system that allows employees to view and edit their data online is necessary.

The Office of Personnel Management currently operates a Federal government benefits selection system called Employee Express. Employee Express is an automated system that puts Federal employees in control of their own discretionary personnel-payroll data without using paper forms.

Major components include a customer service helpdesk, reports and administrative function site, transcription services, and interface communications (data file transfer).

## PROBLEM DEFINITION

It is easy for payroll portal infrastructure to become brittle and overburdened. As time passes and organizations grow, original architecture for the payroll portals have trouble handling high volumes of employees. Updates and reports require manual attention, and unacceptably slow the system down. Many times, payroll portals require a complete rewrite of the core architecture in a modern, flexible and scaleable framework.

### *Solution at a glance*

Migrated portal to serve over 1 million users

### *Technologies involved*

.NET Framework  
ASP.NET  
Visual Basic.NET  
Visual Studio .NET  
SQL Server 2000

## PROJECT DEFINITION

GTSI and Information Strategies (the GTSI Team) provided the technical expertise and professional services involved in re-engineering an existing Employee Payroll portal, including database design, software migration, and system upgrades. The functionality of the system remained almost the same, while the architecture and technology were totally rebuilt from the ground up using the Microsoft .NET Framework and Visual Studio .NET.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The main project objectives were as follows:

- Assist in architectural and design decisions
- Validate site architecture
- Transfer .NET knowledge to customer team members
- Mentor customer software developers
- Reduce time to deploy migrated site
- Share best practices relating to .Net development

## PROJECT OUTCOME

After project kickoff, the team learned that the customer required a greater level of .NET learning than had been originally estimated. It is not easy for the customer to immediately assume much of the development work.

The GTSI Team approached the customer early in the project with identified risks and options. With guidance, the customer could make important decisions on how to keep the project on track, and step up to bear more of the project burden by developing the application's framework and taking on several of the application modules.

We successfully delivered a stable employee payroll portal, re-written in the .NET framework, meeting aggressive, fixed milestones set to accommodate growing demands.