



Oklahoma Deploys the Nation's First Fully Implemented Statewide SIF-Based Data Collection Model

SIF-based collection of data ensures accountability

COLUMBIA, ILL. (August 8, 2005) – The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), along with Third Day Solutions and CPSI, reaches into the forefront of technology by deploying the nation's first fully implemented statewide data collection model based on the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) standard. This project met its goal without forcing school districts to change their current Student Information Packages or resorting to non-SIF based functionality to make it work. While state agencies have started their deployments earlier, the OSDE will be the first to finish their education data system that is fully SIF compliant.

To accomplish this, Oklahoma selected a world-class team of education data system providers, led by Third Day Solutions and CPSI. While the contract spans five years, the successful SIF-based data collection system will be completed before October 2005. This is less than one year after the start of the project. Third Day Solutions (TDS), along with its partners CPSI and My Consulting Group (of Oklahoma City, OK), has successfully implemented large-scale systems for several other state education agencies.

The project includes a next-generation state reporting system from TDS, a SIF-based unique identifier system from TDS and CPSI, CPSI's Zone Integration Servers, CPSI's Universal Agent Suite (an advanced and powerful SIF-based ETL and mapping application), CPSI's vertical reporting tool set and State Locator ID system (commonly known as the District Wave Agent in Oklahoma), and the configuration and connection of up to of 540 SIF agents at every school district in Oklahoma. The configurations include connection points for the 20 different Student Information Packages.

The OSDE Wave project is the first statewide SIF-based data collection system in place that will deliver unique ID's to students as well as complete a full data collection from the many districts to the state. Oklahoma is the first state to enforce the Schools Interoperability Framework standard by legislation.

"The Oklahoma State Department of Education has proven that by using SIF standard, an aggressive timeline can be implemented for state-wide implementations. They have also proven that schools can maintain current technology while utilizing state-of-the-art technology. The fact that this project encompasses 540 district locations plus the State Department of Education proves that SIF is the best method of data transport available for states and districts." said Michelle Elia, president of CPSI, known as the leading K-12 SIF integration and directory services management company. "Other states will be looking to Oklahoma for guidance in how to properly and effectively implement large enterprise SIF-based systems for data collection and integration."

The implementation of the system in Oklahoma will reduce the state's reporting burdens, as well as the districts involved. Better data delivery and integration means increased accuracy and accountability. When the first data collection occurs in October of this year, data will available in a timely fashion, with higher quality, and allow for better decision making at both the state and district levels.

Aziz Elia, CPSI's Chief Software Architect and a leading innovator in SIF solutions at both the state and district level, added: "The solution allows schools to select the best-of-breed software for their own purposes, as well as a tool set that allows the districts to move forward with data integration using SIF. The CPSI toolsets allow the district to move forward even if their software vendor is not providing a SIF agent. This dynamic model has proven to be the most versatile and advanced approach to SIF-based data integration at the state, district, and local school level."



About CPSI

Computer Power Solutions of Illinois (CPSI) was founded in 1989 and has been committed solely to K-12 education since its inception. Their first software product, CASEL (Classroom Administrative Software for Educational LANs) was released in 1992. Its hallmark solutions combining SIF-based data integration with network and directory services account management, have been developed with input from educators and technical staff at K-12 institutions over the years. CPSI remains on the forefront of SIF-based solutions development and is the largest SIF integrator in the world. Over the years, CPSI has remained committed to helping educators stay current with their Fortune 500 counterparts in the deployment of products and services. CPSI has proven itself as a developer of real, scalable, enterprise-wide solutions for K-12 institutions. CPSI is a Sun iForce Developer/Partner, an Oracle Partner, a Novell Certified Developer, and a Microsoft Certified Partner/ISV. To learn more, visit <http://www.vcasel.com> or contact Michelle Elia at 800.659.8240 or michelle@vcasel.com

About Third Day Solutions

Third Day Solutions, LLC (TDS) specializes in software development, support, and information technology (IT) consulting for state and local governments, as well as private sector organizations. Originally organized in 1978, we have been operating as Third Day Solutions since December 2000. Our former affiliations include the well-respected organizations of Conway Computer Group (Jackson, MS), Nichols Research Corporation (Huntsville, AL) and most recently, Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) (El Segundo, CA). TDS's charter is to provide "IT Solutions that fit Business". This is done through consulting and contracting services, whether to public or private sector clients, with the highest level of integrity. We work closely with our clients to understand their unique information technology needs. Once this process is complete, solutions can be proposed that fit the business requirements. The staff of TDS works diligently to satisfy the IT-based business requirements of our clients. Our client's references and referrals are testimony of this fact. To learn more, visit <http://www.thirddaysolutions.com>, write info@thirddaysolutions.com, or call 601-847-9301.

About MyConsulting Group

MY Consulting Group, headquartered in Oklahoma City, OK, was founded by two industry consulting veterans. Privately held and woman-owned, our success and growth stems largely from referrals of satisfied clients and retention of excellent employees. Our founding partners are actively involved in the day-to-day operations of the company and provide customer service guidance to our management and support staff. Collectively, our backgrounds represent those of our clients – all members of our leadership team bring extensive management experience from private industry, military service, or other government organizations. To learn more, visit <http://www.myconsultinggroup.com> or e-mail info@myconsultinggroup.com, 405-606-4080.

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