

Case Study – Labor Budgeter

Domain	Retail
Technology	VB.NET, Crystal Reports, Dreamweaver, Access
Period of Project	December 2004 to April 2005 and July 2005 to November 2005
Project Status	Completed. Maintenance and support being done.
Total Effort	20 person months

The Labor Budgeter product has been developed for the National Association of Convenience Stores. After the first version of the product was deployed successfully, we developed an Enhanced version for a larger set of features for larger store chains. Both the versions are packaged as commercial products.

This application uses standards data for tasks performed in convenience stores and input data from the store based on actual usage from the past, to budget the labor hours required for the store. Users are allowed access to the application based on their privilege level. This product has been designed to be used by multiple stores of a single firm.

The application stores data for multiple stores and can store data for several months. Based on the standards data and past data, ongoing budgeting for labor can be done effectively. Data for the store can be entered into the application through the available forms or imported from Excel files. Multiple reports are available at varying levels of detail, including Trend reports, which can be generated for the particular store. Consolidated reports based on division, region and area are also made available for firm level analysis.

Apart from the regular product, a demo version of the product, which allowed all features except for data entry and importing, was provided. A Flash presentation was also created for demonstration of the product.

Key challenges in the project included creating a custom method for performance testing and analysis, ability to work with Access database and Crystal reports with large amounts of data, and password protection of the Access database that contained sensitive standards data of the product.

