

LLogisticNET from TMCS

Introduction:

TMCS (TM Century Solutions) is proud to present to our valuable clients and business associates our latest software solutions. We called it LLogisticNET.

What it is ...

- It is a "Documents Management System for Freight Forwarders under the shipping logistic industry"
- It is web based
- It is based on Microsoft platform and technologies

Documents Management System ...

The essence of a document management system is to cater for digitization of paper documents. As such it provides:

- Digitization of paper documents into electronic forms
- Information to be stored in electronic media (database, CD, DVD)
- Conversion of information between electronic file standards (PDF, Excel, XML, Word and etc)
- Printing of information into various formats (hard copy, reports)

Benefits ...

- Centralized management of documents
- Documents searching efficiency
- Malaysian budget solution
- Scalable solution
- Customized reports for analysis

Scopes ...

It covers the following scope out of its large domain as listed alphabetically...

A
Access Rights, Accounting Details, Agents, Air Export, Air Import, Airport, Airway

B
Bill, Bill of Lading, Booking
C
Cargo, Cargo Weight, Carrier, Consignee, Consignor, Contacts, Correction Manifest, Costing
D
Daily Reports, DDU, DDP, Default status list, Default Costing, Delivery Point, Domestic Transportation
E
ETA, ETD, Existing Job
F
FCL, Closing Time, File, Forwarder, Freight CC, Freight PP
H
Haulier, HAWB, HBL, House Address
J
Job Status (completed, Opened, Cancelled, Pending)
L
LCL, Load Type
M
MAWB, MBL, Monthly Reports
N
Notify Party
P
Password, Pick up Point, POD, POL, Ports, Preinvoice
Q
Quotation
R
Report Type (General, Performance, Sales), Roles
S
Sales Person, Sea Export, Sea Import, Shipper, Shipping Instruction, Sub-agent
T
Trucking Reports
U
User Groups and Allocation, User Name, User Profiles, User Security Levels
V
Vessel
W
Warehouse

In particular, the following table provides categorization of documents ...

	Air Export	Air Import	Sea Export	Sea Import
Document types supported by LLogisticNET	Booking Confirmation	Booking Confirmation	Booking Confirmation	Booking Confirmation
	HAWB	HAWB		
	Shipping Instruction		Shipping Instruction	
			HBL	HBL
				Correction Manisfest
			ROT	ROT
		Preinvoice	Preinvoice	Preinvoice
	Status Listing	Status Listing	Status Listing	Status Listing
	Truck Arrangement		Truck Arrangement	

Some Screen Captures ...

The screenshot shows the LLogistic.NET web application interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Search, Other, Reports, Maintenance, Quotation, and Address. A search bar is located on the right side of the header. Below the header, there is a search filter panel with the following fields: Shipper, Consignee, POL, and POD, each with a red 'X' icon. There are also icons for a person, a post, a plus sign, and a magnifying glass. The filter panel includes fields for PCL Date, POD Date, Job Type (a dropdown menu), Job No., Master No., and House No. A Status field with a yellow warning icon is also present. Below the filter panel, there is a table with the following columns: Job Type, Status, Job No, MAWB / MEL No, HAWB / HBL No, Shipper Name, Consignee Name, and PCL. The table is currently empty, and a message below it states "There are no items to show in this view".

Details Print BC HBL Shp Inst Haulier Prainvoice Status Files Job

Job Type : Sea Export Job No : SE00182072006 Last Print Date :
 Job Status : Completed Created Date : 26-Jul-2006 Copies Printed : 0
 MBL : 777

Shipper : ACE EXPRESS INC X Mr Maurice Kong
 Shipping : ACE EXPRESS INC X
 Consignee : ACE EXPRESS INC X Mr Maurice Kong
 Forwarding Agent : ACE EXPRESS INC X
 Notify Pty : ACE EXPRESS INC X
 Agent : ACE EXPRESS INC X Mr Maurice Kong
 Haulier : ACE EXPRESS INC X Mr Maurice Kong

Booking Details More Details Vessel Details

Load Type : FCL FCL/UCI Closing Time : 24-May-2006 19:26:00

Details HBL Cor Manifest Haulier Prainvoice Status Files Add New Job

Job Type : Sea Import Job No : Last Print Date :
 Job Status : Completed Created Date : Copies Printed : 0
 MBL :

Shipper : X Mr Maurice Kong
 Shipping : X
 Consignee : X Mr Maurice Kong
 Forwarding Agent : X
 Notify Pty : X
 Agent : X Mr Maurice Kong
 Haulier : X Mr Maurice Kong

Booking Details More Details Vessel Details

Load Type : FCL Clearance By :
 Unstuffing At :

Maintenance Default Costing				
Group :		Air E cost		
Selected	Code	Description	Currency	Cost
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	99	COST RECOVERY MEASURE	RM	5.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADD CDOC	ADDITIONAL CUSTOM DOC. FEES	USD	4.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADD ONFYDG	ADDITIONAL ON-FORWARDING CHARGES	RM	5.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	AG	AGENCY FEES	RM	110.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	BL	BILL OF LADING	RM	80.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	CDOC	CUSTOM DOCUMENTATION FEES	RM	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	CLEARANCE	CUSTOM CLEARANCE	RM	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	COURRIER	COURRIER CHARGES	RM	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	D/O	DELIVERY ORDER FEE	RM	80.00

Case Studies

TMCS would like to demonstrate to our valuable clients that LLogisticNET may not be the only way to manage documents, nevertheless it offers value to your business.

Let's analyze this through other means of document management. The primitive way of managing documents is through usage of folders and files. However, this will give rise to the difficulty of searching for relevant documents in real-time basis; that is to say, response time is critical to your business operation efficiency.

Under Microsoft Windows operating system, primitive search feature is built-in. Nevertheless is it able to cater for your efficiency needs? We may also want to explore another new technology provided by Google Inc which is called Google Desktop Search, a search technology which mimics Google's web search that encases information at your local computers.

Let's analyze in details.

- Folders + Files using *Microsoft's primitive search as enhancer*

Microsoft's primitive search is real-time and thus it is not efficient. Real-time search means that it has no previous knowledge of your search activities and thus would not learn to be smarter to know your behavior. Therefore, searching with this technology would take longer times and usually outcomes are not accurate because searching process would tend to overlook certain files which should come under your search boundary.

- Folders + Files using *Google Desktop Search as enhancer*

Google Desktop Search is not operating under real-time basis. It uses batch-processes to secretly run through all your files; pretty much the same manner how anti-virus software scan through all your files and remembers the trails. In other words, this newly search technology create intelligence based on your information and structures information according to open format.

Google Desktop Search outcomes are very accurate and fast and definitely would edge over Microsoft's Operating System primitive search. Nevertheless, it does give rise to the following disadvantages comparing to LLogisticNET:

- I. Not able to flatten redundancy.
Redundancy comes by means of multiple files created for similar content.
- II. Centralized management is hard to achieve because synchronization requires extra efforts.

Scalability

Scalability factor is often more important than the brand factor of the software provider, because scalability would define the life of the software purchased by clients. That is, how long your software can last as compared to the life-time of your business? Do you have to scrap your existing software and invest into new software infrastructures just to suit the changes to your business requirements?

LLogisticNET is scalable. At the same time, it can also leverage on Microsoft Office Infopath technology to cater for scalability.

Microsoft Office Infopath is an information-gathering program included in the 2007 release of the Microsoft Office system. With Office InfoPath 2007, you can create and deploy electronic forms solutions to gather information efficiently and reliably. You can also use the InfoPath Forms Services capabilities in Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 to extend your business processes beyond your corporate firewall, delivering forms as Microsoft Office Outlook e-mail messages, Web browser forms, or forms for mobile devices.

In short, scalability is built-in to Microsoft Office Infopath.

The following table illustrates the options of scalability available for our discussion:

Feature	LLogisticNET	Microsoft Office Infopath
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Base Product	A fully functional and industry compliant documents management software for freight forwarders under the shipping logistic industry.	A generic software engine for electronic forms management.
Base Price	<p>RM 5,000 (3 concurrent users)</p> <p>RM 500 per additional users (up to 20 users)</p>	<p>RM 1500 ++</p> <p>To configure Infopath into a full-fledge documents management system like LLogisticNET, customization is required.</p> <p>i.e 30 days (or more) of configuration with RM 600 per man-day would require RM 18,000.</p> <p>Total start-up cost would then be RM 19,500 ++</p>
Scalability Model & Cost (New requirements)	<p>1. Customized solution</p> <p>Cost = RM 600 per man-day</p> <p>2. Microsoft Office Infopath</p> <p>Cost = RM 1500 ++ (base product) RM 600 per man-day (customization)</p>	<p>1. Extra configuration</p> <p>Cost = RM 600 per man-day</p>

TMCS recommends the following package as the best solution for our valuable clients:

1. Obtain LLogisticNET as the base product.
2. Obtain Microsoft Office Infopath as scalability extension. This would minimize the man-day requirement for enhancements.

Conclusion

The whole idea is to get information to be stored into the database.

Database is a software technology to cater for structured and efficient information management.

Comparing folder and file based search, Google Desktop Search is able to produce accurate results because its batch processes or background processes would occasionally grab information (folders and files) and store into database as well. The database is built-in to the system. The process is daemon or automatic.

Thus, when users request for search, faster and accurate results can be produced because database caters for structured and efficient information retrieval.

We hope that this article would give you a pleasant discovery into our exciting software solutions to enhance your business needs.

Thank you.

Brandon Teoh

Marketing Manager of TMCS