



DoD Increases Productivity, Cost Savings With Brava! Enterprise

Industry

Department of Defense

Quote

“The engineers were very impressed with Brava’s hassle-free user installation and say that it has an amazingly small learning curve for a product with such an impressive array of features.”

- Dean Pirovolos
Software Engineer

Company Facts

- The Software Engineering Center provides life-cycle software products and services for the U.S. Army and Department of Defense.

Challenge

- The DoD was incurring additional costs due to an inability to access drawings at off-site locations.
- The Software Engineering Center was challenged with bringing the DoD’s antiquated IT system in to the modern age of collaboration.

Environment

- Solaris™ v8
- iPlanet™ v4.1

Return On Investment

- \$170K savings per year
- Improved employee morale
- Quick user adoption
- Increased production

Company Profile

The Software Engineering Center (SEC), based at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, operates under the U.S. Army Communications Electronics Command Group (CECOM) and provides life-cycle software products and services to the U.S. Army and Department of Defense (DoD). The SEC employs over 750 people (civilian and military) in its U.S., German and Korean offices, and has an annual operating budget of \$300 million. With its additional 2,000+ support contractors, the SEC offers such services as the integration of battlespace information systems, avionics, and technology consulting and strategic planning.

Operational Challenge

The SEC was working with an unnamed department at the DoD to modernize their existing Citrix-based system. The functionality of the Citrix system was deemed inadequate and its cumbersome install was a hindrance to the necessary mobility of the department. Production was severely impacted by system inaccessibility via a Web browser and slow network connectivity from remote locations. System deficiencies were also generating additional costs such as printing and increased man-hours.

“Engineers on the road had no way of accessing the system if they did not have their personal laptops with them, and even if they did, connection difficulties were imminent,” said Dean Pirovolos, SEC Software Engineer. “Engineers were often forced to work on paper rather than electronically.” All the system problems were having a direct impact on both the performance and the morale of the department. An effective solution was needed immediately. The DoD looked to the SEC to find and recommend a collaborative application that met all of their requirements:

- viewing support of office documents, image and CAD files;
- markup and redline functionality;
- no end-user installation;
- remote access via the Web; and
- an intuitive interface for quick user adoption.

Application Solution

The engineers at the SEC conducted extensive research on off-the-shelf software products that would meet their client’s criteria and bring them in to the modern age of online collaboration. “It just made sense to look for a Java-based product that users could access from any Web-enabled PC,” said Pirovolos about their search for a solution. They performed a side-by-side comparison of many applications, including RxViewR5, AutoVue (Professional and SolidModel), Autodesk® WHIP!®, eCADLite, AutoManager® View, Brava!® Enterprise, and View Café®. “It was determined that Brava! Enterprise was the most complete solution available,” said Pirovolos. “Brava not only met all of the requirements but also offered an easy integration into our client’s system.”

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Brava Enterprise is thin-client, web served, component software that provides view and markup of CAD drawings, circuit schematics, images and office documents. Brava Enterprise can be integrated with any web-based system, and because Brava's architecture minimizes web server overhead, a single Brava server can deliver superior performance to large groups of concurrently connected users. SEC and DoD engineers, contractors and subcontractors found the benefits of Brava Enterprise to be two-fold: first, they obtained secure, convenient and high-performance access to documents and drawings from any location through a Web browser; and second, they shared comments and communicated changes through the redlining and markup capabilities.

The Results

The SEC's DoD client has been extremely pleased with their ability to streamline communication and is estimated to have saved over \$170K each year by increasing productivity and eliminating printing/shipping costs. "Brava has allowed users to be more productive now that they have constant access to their work, even when travelling or working in the field, something that was all but impossible with the old system," said Pirovolos.

By eliminating a desktop install and offering an interface specifically designed for quick user adoption, the SEC was able to help the DoD recoup costs associated with development and implementation immediately. "Feedback from our users has been extremely positive. The engineers were very impressed with Brava Enterprise's hassle-free user installation and have commented on its amazingly small learning curve despite the impressive array of features that it has to offer," said Pirovolos. "Brava Enterprise has even improved morale. People say it is fun to use compared to the old system and makes their job much easier," comments Pirovolos on how users have reported greater work satisfaction, derived from using a tool that is better designed to fit their process and communication needs.