Big 5 Sportings Goods
Big 5 Met Compliance with Ease

Situation

In recent years, Big 5 has gone through some major positive corporate changes on both the financial and operational side. The company completed an initial public offering bringing a whole new host of considerations and regulatory requirements for the company to address, e.g., Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX). Big 5 also went through a major growth spurt, opening 85 new stores in just five years time. While both situations have been great for the Big 5 business, it has added a new layer of complexities for the organization.

Industry
Retail

Challenge / Situation
No process systems in place to track and manage the software development lifecycle. IT Compliance was a painful, manual struggle.

Products
Rocket Aldon Lifecycle Manager and Rocket Aldon Deployment Manager

Results
Met compliance with ease, increased productivity, streamlines processes, and gained new levels of visibility into key corporate assets

What Big 5 needed was to take a step back and look closer at operations from both a business and IT processes perspective; to ensure its IT systems were properly equipped to not only support regulatory compliance but to deliver operational efficiency and provide a foundation for future growth.

Big 5 quickly discovered it needed a process-driven change management solution from a reliable and trusted vendor. Big 5 found application lifecycle management (ALM) solution provider, Rocket Software

Applications Areas

Software Change Management

IT Compliance

IT Business Management

Challenge

With the new "publicly traded" status, Big 5 was faced with SOX compliance for the first time, and was not accustomed to auditing processes involving both the IT and business units.

❖ Big 5 did not have systems in place that could automate and track the software development lifecycle necessary to help with regulatory compliance.

❖ Rapid growth, new stores and new business meant constant changes to the company's core business applications. For Big 5, simple application changes became complex.

❖ Big 5 previously relied on an informal manual documentation process to track and control its business application development, which proved time consuming and prone to errors.

❖ With only the manual process in place, Big 5 developers had no process to control and document the software modifications they made, leaving the IT organization without repeatable and traceable processes to streamline application development.

Rocket®

Solution

After evaluating several vendors, Big 5 chose Rocket Software because it delivered structured, repeatable and measurable change management processes. Big 5 was able to:

❖ View a comprehensive documentation trail of every action performed to satisfy strict regulatory compliance requirements. With a single keystroke, Big 5 can deliver a comprehensive history of every action performed on any given object.

❖ Develop, deploy and manage its most important corporate applications: billing and payment system, order processing, inventory management, databases, and pricing.

❖ Define its development life cycle at implementation. Rocket Aldon's ALM solution automates the movement of objects between environments based on the user ID and object definitions. The process automation frees developers from having to specify target environments, simplifying development.

❖ Ensure programmers are productive doing development tasks. The management tasks can be off-loaded to management personnel using the Rocket Aldon's ALM software solution.

❖ Gain tight version control throughout the application lifecycle. Rocket Aldon Lifecycle Manager makes sure consistent object authority is enforced from start to finish.

❖ Maintain control at every point. Rocket's products ensures that the location of every object can be tracked which dramatically reduces the time spent searching for a particular object while ensuring that the correct version of the object is selected.

"Rocket Software delivers a solution that not only solves our SOX requirements, it improves and automates processes across IT from A to Z. It has gone well beyond our expectations. When the SOX auditors heard we had Aldon Lifecycle Manager in place, they checked off the first 10 boxes knowing we were already in accordance. I think that says it all."

Glen Thompson
Senior Manager
Big 5 Corp

Result

Since implementing Rocket Aldon's ALM solutions, the ease-of-use, automated documentation and object distribution have become essential elements of Big 5's development process and have made for an easy adoption of the product and day-to-day procedures. Big 5 has gained benefits that touch the organization at every point for both business and IT by:

❖ Achieving Sarbanes-Oxley compliance with ease.

❖ Increasing productivity, streamlining processes, gaining new levels of visibility into key corporate assets.

❖ Meeting deadlines, increasing software quality, and delivering software on time.

❖ Improving procedures, traceability, and control throughout the business application lifecycle.

❖ Giving IT Managers total visibility into the development processes, e.g., who is doing what, how they are doing it, how long it takes, and when.

❖ Giving developers a clear view into what they need to do next, and most importantly, what's been done by the other developers.

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