

Success WITH CA

Advantage™

EDS Develops HIPAA-Compliant Healthcare Claims Processing Solution With Advantage™ Gen

Electronic Data Systems (EDS) is a leading global information technology (IT) services company. Founded in 1962, it supports more than 2.2 million desktops worldwide and manages approximately 46,000 servers. EDS employs approximately 140,000 people in 58 countries.

EDS leverages Computer Associates International, Inc.'s (CA) Advantage™ Gen for mission-critical applications in several industries, including manufacturing, federal and state government, banking, insurance and healthcare. There are approximately 1,000 trained EDS Advantage Gen developers located around the world.

MetaVance, a suite of applications used by several health insurance companies which includes financial and administrative healthcare claims processing, is one of many solutions EDS has developed using Advantage Gen. "We chose Advantage Gen because of its proven performance and strong future direction. As a business partner, we know that CA is committed to MetaVance's success," said EDS Enterprise Architect, Larry Schmidt.

Focus on Healthcare Business Issues, Quality and Partnership

Since EDS likes to approach development projects from a business perspective, they needed an open development environment that allows them to deploy to a variety of platforms. EDS develops solutions based on business requirements, not technology restrictions. For the MetaVance project, it was especially important that developers focused on healthcare issues rather than code. The software would have to meet numerous specific customer requirements as well as requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). EDS also needed a development product that would ensure high quality code, meet unique customer needs and show a clear commitment to future

developments pertaining to HIPAA. Above all, a strong partner relationship would be critical to the continued success of this project.

Meeting Requirements and Going Beyond Expectation

The Advantage Gen development environment meets all of EDS' production requirements, enabling them to produce a quality MetaVance product that exceeds its initially estimated schedule.

Built-in open systems deployment features of Advantage Gen allow Schmidt's team to deploy MetaVance to a variety of platforms. Advantage Gen is a pioneer of Sun's "write once run anywhere" concept. This solution's commitment to Java strengthens its open systems position and offers extensive technology deployment options for MetaVance. Web-client enablement brings additional client interfacing options to MetaVance. Advantage Gen further extends MetaVance's support of the "digital health plan"—an environment in which health insurers leverage Internet technologies to automate business processes between their payer community and its extended enterprise, including healthcare providers and business associates.

Rather than getting bogged down in client/server deployment issues, MetaVance developers focus on the business of healthcare with Advantage Gen. "It simplifies the complexities of the client/server architecture to a few clicks on a few windows," said Schmidt. "The Advantage Gen application development environment also has built-in development rules that provide immediate syntactical and logical feedback to developers. These features, as well as others, allow our developers to produce a higher quality product."

Developer productivity improves significantly through the use of Advantage Gen. "The tool set is easy to learn and is very intuitive," continued Schmidt. "Built-in methodologies make both novice



Customer Info AT A GLANCE

Company Name:

EDS

Industry:

IT Services

Geographic Location:

Plano, TX

CA Solution Used:

Advantage™ Gen

Biggest ROI:

Significantly improves developer productivity.



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“
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”

Larry Schmidt
Enterprise Architect
EDS

and seasoned developers more productive. The Advantage Gen encyclopedia allows developers to quickly recognize potential overlapping work assignments, and support for Rapid Applications Development provides developers an additional option to respond to healthcare change.” EDS estimates that Advantage Gen saved the company two full years to develop MetaVance. Its previous programming methods would have taken far too long. “Today, it is hard for the MetaVance developers to imagine life without Advantage Gen,” said Schmidt. “It gives us a leg up on the competition in so many ways.”

The MetaVance project adds functionality to the software every nine months, releasing new versions as they progress. Approximately 300 employees work on the project, 100 of which are developers.

Meeting HIPAA Requirements

Advantage Gen proved especially effective at retooling MetaVance for upcoming HIPAA requirements. These requirements impact claims processing data attributes within the program. Advantage Gen provides the ability to understand and re-map those data attributes, change the data models and regenerate the system in order to account for several formats that HIPAA requires. It enables MetaVance to conduct data modeling analysis for external metadata, quickly change field lengths for data and easily define a HIPAA transaction table. The transaction tables lock-in unaltered, saved information records throughout the data exchange processes. “Advantage Gen allowed us to quickly and easily integrate all of these HIPAA capabilities,” said Schmidt.

EDS also leveraged the Advantage Gen common action blocks (blocks of reusable code) to speed the transition to an architecture that supports HIPAA compliance. “Because of the Advantage Gen open architecture,” said Schmidt, “we were able to integrate other specialized HIPAA point products into our overall solution.” The open architecture also enables MetaVance to provide proxy support, call processors across a network for distributed processing and allow computers to communicate with each other. All these features directly relate to the business opportunities and needs of EDS customers.

Partnering With CA

“CA has offered opportunities to promote MetaVance to its customers, and they are helping us certify it as a ca smart™ certified solution,” said Schmidt. ca smart™ is a certification program for industry-leading solutions that use CA technology to deliver the highest level of quality and the greatest customer value.

“We design our solutions as long-term commitments to our customers, so we need a long-term, rock-solid relationship with our development software vendor—and CA provides that,” said Schmidt.

Future Plans

Moving forward, EDS will utilize Advantage Gen security, audit trail and XML messaging capabilities. The client/server user exit capability in Advantage Gen facilitates encryption and digital certificate authentication, which can serve to improve security and help comply with HIPAA security requirements. EDS will also need to comply with HIPAA audit trail requirements and the Advantage Gen audit trail features will help them keep logs based on identifiers and user activities.



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