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“I was able to create an application to my need using Zoho Creator over a single night, which I tried in vain using MS Access & Visual Basic for a period of 3 months”

~ Ted Hughes, Bulk Chemicals Operations Manager

CHALLENGE:

As the business grew, the bulk chemical procurement unit of SoluChem began to sense the need for an effective customized vendor management solution coupled with a contacts database.

Maintaining information set on different applications with considerable learning curve for the non-IT staff was really cumbersome.

This setup was failing to keep pace with the scale of its business especially affecting its supply chain drastically. SoluChem's staff was faced with a herculean task of rendering an effective and inexpensive solution that could possibly eliminate the shortcomings of the existing setup.

SOLUTION:

SoluChem LLC was faced with lack of understanding in working with databases like MS-Access for a period of 3 months before narrowing down on Zoho Creator.

The power and flexibility of Zoho Creator helped SoluChem to create a web based database application that exactly fit the company's requirements.

“Zoho Creator did exactly what I wanted it to do and was always on the web. I could share my Zoho application with other members of my team.”

Information such as various chemical procurement details, quotes from various vendors, contact information of the vendors, notes corresponding to each vendor, tasks that tend to be pending etc could not have been managed better without Zoho Creator.

CHALLENGE: **Vendor Management System was complex and expensive.**

The bulk procurement unit of SoluChem was initially managing the vendor tracking information through the conventional Microsoft Access based application. The department staff had to query the MS-Access database for getting information relevant to a vendor on a given month. Even a simple requirement of determining all the pending purchase orders on a monthly basis was complex with the Microsoft Access based system. This setup actually lacked the alerting capability on a PO expiry, information on the credibility of the vendors, periodic report generating ability etc.

Ted Hughes was determined to bring about a fundamental change in the way the bulk chemical procurement unit was functioning. He wanted to implement a fast and simple vendor management application that could be accessed anywhere by a select set of users i.e his team. In the process, he didn't want to compromise on the security aspect of the data.

At this point of time, he came across a review of Zoho Creator and also couple of other articles. He then decided to signup with Zoho Creator and found it to be the exact web based database application that brought his ideas into action for free.

SOLUTION:

Zoho Creator = MS Access + Visual Basic

The database application created using Zoho Creator helped SoluChem's bulk chemical procurement unit staff to comprehensively manage their purchase order cycle efficiently. Quotes received from multiple vendors spread out geographically could be tracked according to the requirement on hand without affecting the delivery.

The chemicals inventory with SoluChem LLC was difficult to maintain prior to the Zoho Creator based application because of the complexity in their specifications. Zoho Creator helped SoluChem to overcome all such woes. This application did away with the learning curve that the staff was confronted with previous systems in place.

"I consider Zoho Creator = MS Access + Visual Basic"

The earlier setup required redundant entry of data into multiple systems in place that resulted in a decreased efficiency of the staff. The tasks that need to be executed with respect to each and every vendor could be easily made note of with a single click in a single console. Vendor information, specific to a raw material conforming to the specifications was streamlined avoiding the confusion that existed before. Email notifications that could be setup using Zoho Creator was of immense help with respect to the deadlines set on each purchase order. This not only enabled SoluChem LLC to keep track of the pending orders but also helped in evaluating on the credibility of a specific vendor.

The intuitive user interface and the drag n drop functionality of Zoho Creator enabled even a novice with limited knowledge of coding to create a powerful database application. Reports could be generated from virtually anywhere with the export option provided by Zoho Creator.

Ted and his team were able to track the chemicals supplied by each vendor and the respective time of delivery along with the cost, all this was available within few clicks. This general trend analysis made it possible to plan and provision for future purchases. Today SoluChem LLC makes use of a robust yet simple vendor management web based database application that is capable of managing its complex inventory policies.

