

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

Contact:

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Title:

Creation of Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) XML Application

Project Lead:

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Brief Description:

The UCC XML application was created to enable companies with a large volume of UCC filings to set up automated uploads of their filings to the Minnesota Secretary of State's database. This new system allows companies to have their UCC filings extracted from their company's database, converted to XML that matches data definitions and then automatically uploaded to the Secretary of State's Business Services database.

Subject area of nomination: Business Services

Executive Summary

History

The business services division in the Office of the Secretary of State receives over 100,000 Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) filings each year. Prior to the new system being developed, companies could file on paper or through the electronic system: UCC Online Filing Application. In 2008, 44% of UCC filings were submitted on paper. This paper based filing process was both slow and time-consuming for the business services staff who processed the documents and for the companies waiting for the filings to be returned by mail.

In order to shift the burden of database entry work away from staff and companies, a XML computer platform was created. During the year of development business services staff, IT staff, consultants and companies who would be using the filing system defined the requirements, coded and tested this new business services application. This end product enabled companies with a large number of UCC filings to set up automated uploads of their filings to the office's database. Companies utilizing this system can choose from uploading to a web service or using HTTP posting to upload their information. When the filing is extracted from the company's database it is converted to XML that matches data definitions and then uploads the file to the business service database. If a filing is rejected the client is automatically notified of the rejection and reason. The client is billed daily for any filings submitted.

Significance

The development of the UCC XML filing system has allowed the business services division to assist large companies more effectively and efficiently. In the past, each filing took approximately 3 to 5 minutes to process. The new automated electronic XML system requires minimal business service staff time to maintain. The companies that use this system only need to monitor the application for rejections and make payments, resulting in substantial cost savings for them as well.

One of the state's largest single filer of UCC documents, John Deere has gone from making approximately 10,000 paper filings annually to 100% electronic filings.

Impacts/Results

As previously mentioned, the process before switching to the XML method required a significant amount of time and staff resources. Staff are now able to dedicate their time to other areas of the business services department as the intense data entry is no longer needed.

Overall, this new system has saved time and money for both this office and the filer by increasing our electronic filings from 56% in 2008 using only a UCC Online Filing Application to 81% with the implementation of XML. The business services division has become much more efficient so they can provide better services to customers.

Supporting Materials

- John Deere UCC Filings chart, attached

John Deere UCC Filings

— Paper — Electronically

