

STCS PROJECT PROFILE

Orchard Information Systems ArcHouse Plus System



ORCHARD INFORMATION SYSTEMS



Orchard Information Systems provides specialist software solutions to public service providers - including housing management, financial management, e-Government, and business intelligence.

PROJECT REQUIREMENT AND SCOPE

arcHouse Plus is an upgrade and migration of the functionality of Orchard's successful arcHouse housing management system delivering contact management, workflow and web enabled citizen access. The major aim of the project was to develop an interface to allow the functionality to be delivered via a web browser, so that customers could more flexibly configure how the system could support their business. At the same time, additional functionality was developed for a major new customer, a devolved government Housing Executive.

STCS provided additional analysis and design resource to allow Orchard to meet extremely challenging timescales. The timescales meant that it was vital that quality of delivery was high and learning curves were short.

TECHNICAL APPROACH

Since documentation for the existing system did not exist, it was a vital element of the migration that consistent and comprehensive module designs were produced to enable efficient development and future maintenance. UML was chosen to facilitate an object-oriented approach and increase the reusability of the modules produced. This was essential given the modular natures of the product offerings and the configurability of the implementation.

All documents and designs were quality approved using a Quality Management System broadly consistent with the PRINCE2 Project Management methodology.

STCS introduced an innovative proposal to minimise and share the risk to Orchard by funding some of the learning and induction.

KEY TECHNOLOGIES USED

The system was built using Java accessing a progress database.