

POWER Engineers, Inc. Increases Productivity and Reduces Risk with User-friendly Document and Records Management



POWER Engineers, Inc.
Hailey, ID
www.powereng.com

Industry:

Engineering & Construction

Employees:

650

Oracle Products & Services:

Oracle Content DB
Oracle Records DB
Oracle Content Services
Oracle Real-Time Collaboration
Oracle Projects
Oracle Financials
Oracle Human Resources
Oracle Purchasing
Oracle iLearning

Key Benefits:

- Enabled full document lifecycle management
- Provided an intuitive interface
- Improved user efficiency
- Reduced paper document storage requirements and costs
- Ensured easy integration with Oracle products

“Oracle Content DB and Oracle Records DB enable POWER Engineers to more easily manage the lifecycle of approved documents. Oracle provides us with a robust content and records management environment that addresses our compliance needs, integrates into our existing business processes, and is easy for our people to use.” – Loren Dugan, IT Director, POWER Engineers, Inc.

At any given time, POWER Engineers, Inc.—a full-service engineering consulting firm specializing in the energy, facilities, and communications markets—manages more than 2,000 concurrent projects with anywhere from two to 40 team members per project. As a result, it produces vast quantities of information that must be shared and managed. In effect, the management and control of documents is truly the backbone of POWER Engineers’ business.

Recently, the company looked to Oracle—and its Oracle Content Database (Oracle Content DB) and Oracle Records Database (Oracle Records DB)—to help it integrated content management into its business processes while adhering to compliance regulations and client-specific requirements.

Time for Change

POWER Engineers is migrating from a paper-based records archiving process with detailed rules and manual processes to Oracle technology—creating a single, consolidated platform for its content and record management needs. The need to reduce business risks related to regulatory compliance and legal discovery, maximize productivity, and reduce costs associated with storing paper documents are driving the company’s requirement for improved content and document management capabilities.

The growing company found that its file servers used to house project documents were increasingly difficult to maintain and could not scale to fit the company’s growing business. It was also

a challenge to manage the company's ever-increasing number and versions of records. Oracle Content DB and Oracle Records DB provide POWER Engineers with an integrated and easy-to-use content and records management solution that facilitates lifecycle management and regulatory compliance.

Before implementing Oracle Content DB and Oracle Records DB, POWER Engineers had more than 1 million hard copy documents in storage. The time and money spent on searching and storage presented a significant burden to the organization. Now, POWER Engineers is scanning these documents into Oracle Content DB using Kofax scanning and imaging—greatly reducing storage costs and simplifying the search process, while also facilitating an automated document lifecycle that manages the process from document creation through record creation. With Oracle, POWER Engineers is creating a total document solution that encompasses managing electronic documents and records, facilitating the conversion of paper documents to records, and interfacing with the storage of retained paper documents.

Oracle Content DB and Oracle Records DB also interface with other Oracle applications, such as Oracle Projects. POWER Engineers plans to capitalize on this functionality as it incorporates more of Oracle's document lifecycle management capabilities.

When POWER Engineers completes the scanning process, it will have stored all archived documents in Oracle Content Services—regardless of whether documents are accessed through Windows Explorer, Oracle Projects, the Web interface, BPEL processes, or Web services. Using and searching for documents and records is much more efficient and effective when there is a single repository.

Easy User Adoption

An intuitive user interface was a top priority for POWER Engineers. Other solutions they had reviewed were too difficult to use because of complicated interfaces for both end users and administrators. Oracle Content DB provides an intuitive interface that looks like common desktop tools. As a result, users have been able to learn the new system quickly with minimal training.

Simplified Administration

Storing and managing content and records in Oracle Database ensures that POWER Engineers benefits from increased security, reliability, and scalability. All approved project data, including hard copy documents relating to each project, is now stored in a single repository, allowing the company to track and manage data much more easily than before. Oracle Content DB and Oracle Records DB enable administrators to focus on maintaining the system rather than on ensuring that rules and permissions have been properly defined or relying on users for manual processes.

“Setting up policies and file plans in Oracle Records DB was simple and completely integrated with Oracle Content DB,” said Lynnette Koenig, records manager for POWER Engineers.

“Oracle Records DB functions are much more integrated and easier to use than our previous records management database.”

Scales to Fit the Growing Business

With burgeoning information stores and a growing customer base, scalability is critical to POWER Engineers. Oracle provides a system that can address POWER Engineers’ growing repository of documents, many of which need to be stored for 20 years. In addition, the system has the scalability needed to manage POWER Engineers’ more than 1 million-hard copy documents, which are being scanned into Oracle Content DB.

Why Oracle?

Oracle’s vision for Oracle Content DB and Oracle Records DB plus the integration with other applications made the decision easy for POWER Engineers.

“We spent years looking for a way to better manage and control documents, but the systems we reviewed were difficult to use, expensive, and didn’t fully address our needs,” said Loren Dugan, IT director for POWER Engineer. “Oracle provided a solution that is intuitive and addresses our document lifecycle management and control needs.”

Oracle provided POWER Engineers with the tools to improve productivity of individuals and teams with secure access to the right content in the context of the business process. POWER Engineers now has a solution for sustainable regulatory compliance, which reduces the risk associated with content, including information loss and legal discovery.

POWER Engineers plans to integrate Oracle Content DB and Oracle Records DB into its existing Oracle E-Business Suite applications, starting with Oracle Projects. The company also intends to roll out Oracle Web Conferencing, part of Oracle Collaboration Suite.

In the future, POWER Engineers plans to expand its total document solution outside the boundaries of the organization—extending it to critical clients and supplier partners. The company will use Oracle technology to enhance and extend business relationships by making clients and suppliers a more integral part of POWER Engineers project teams.

POWER Engineers, Inc. is a consulting engineering firm specializing in energy, facilities, and communications markets. Founded in 1976, POWER Engineers is an employee-owned company with offices throughout the United States and abroad.