

Energen Corporation Uses GuiXT to Customize SAP Processes—Improves Data Integrity



“Our users wanted a simplified SAP, and GuiXT gave us that without compromising the integrity of the system.”

—Debbie Barber, SAP Functional Consultant, Energen

GuiXT technology enables Energen to greatly reduce the time it took their SAP users to enter a notification and work order, allowing them to address other responsibilities, which led to an increase in productivity and accuracy.

About Energen

Energen Corporation is a diversified energy company focused on its growing oil and gas exploration, production business, and its strong, stable natural gas utility. Today, Energen is among the Top 20 independent exploration and production companies (based on U.S. reserves). Headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, Energen has approximately 1500 employees. Alabama Gas Corporation (Alagasco), a subsidiary of Energen Corporation, is the largest distributor of natural gas in Alabama.

Challenge

Energen wanted to address their biggest SAP application user complaints—too much data entry, redundant data entry, and incorrect data entry. Consequently, Energen was challenged with improving their SAP application usability while providing their users with the necessary tools to become more efficient.

As a public utility company, a critical issue for Energen and its subsidiary Alagasco was how to ensure that reports to the Public Service Commission (PSC) throughout the year didn't unintentionally omit certain causes and codes resulting in incorrect reporting. The data in these reports must be consistent and correct but it wasn't—inaccuracies that had become very costly.



Industry: Utilities

Business: Natural Gas Distribution & Exploration

HIGHLIGHTS

Challenge

- Report to the Public Service Commission
- Data has to be very specific
- Data must be correct

SAP Architecture/Environment

ERP 6.0

SAP Modules Customized

IW21 • IW22 • IW23 • IW28 • IW32 • IW33 • IW38 • ME1N • ME52N • ME53N

Solution

- GuiXT provides screen viewable training instructions accessible while working in a transaction
- GuiXT eliminates unnecessary screens
- GuiXT enables development changes to be made almost immediately

GuiXT Components Implemented

GuiXT Process Engine • GuiXT Viewer • GuiXT Server

Benefits

- Reduced/eliminated costly user errors
- Increased productivity/data accuracy
- Saved on development costs/time

Return on Investment

New users working faster—reducing costs not only in training time but in production time.

Future

GuiXT Mobile Solution Suite Implementation

Solution

Energen chose the GuiXT Desktop Solution Suite to resolve their interface problems. By using GuiXT's unique scripting technology instead of ABAP (Advanced Business Application Programming) and working within Energen's existing SAP interface, GuiXT technology allows the client to streamline business processes, remove unwanted fields and consolidate screen tabs achieving the interface every organization envisions.

For Energen, this meant automated SAP systems that deliver high rates of productivity and efficiency, as well as the elimination of costly mistakes. GuiXT enabled Energen to set standards of how information was entered, in addition to making fields required that in SAP were not. GuiXT also allowed Energen to have the scripts written to include hard errors so that if certain information wasn't entered for a selected type of situation then the user would not be able to continue until that error or omission was corrected.

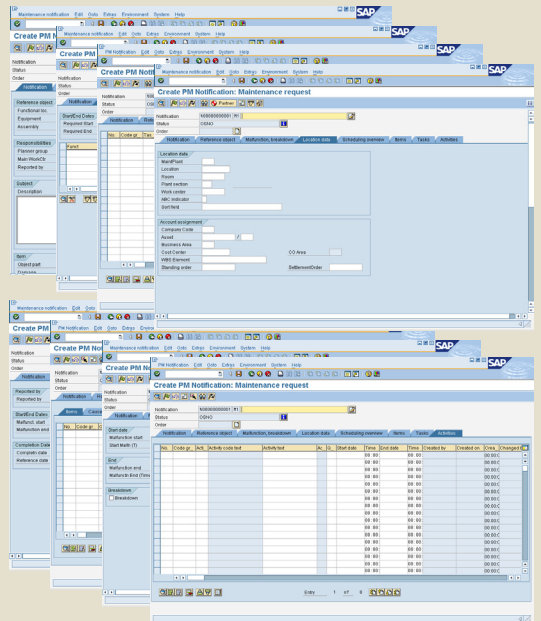
Benefits

According to Debbie Barber, Energen's SAP Functional Consultant, by customizing their SAP interface using GuiXT technology, Energen was able to make reporting a lot easier and consistent, immediately boosting productivity. As a result, Energen cut down the time users were taking to enter a notification and work order (N&WO), which allowed those employees to either complete more N&WO or move on to other responsibilities. By increasing the overall quality and accuracy of information that gets inputted, Energen gave themselves a distinct and competitive advantage—one that led to an increase in their bottom line.

Looking Ahead

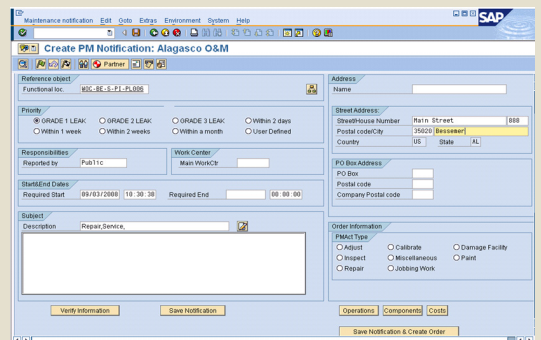
Not a company to rest on its laurels, Energen is looking at other areas where GuiXT can help them increase their productivity. Energen plans to roll out the changes made using GuiXT to CCS (Customer Care and Service) for the creating and processing of purchase requisitions. And after that they want to provide their mobile and offline workforce (the guys in the crew trucks) with access to simplified SAP screens—automating their transactions and improving accuracy. Their approach is the same as before, make SAP as easy to use as an ATM—simple and intuitive.

BEFORE



Before GuiXT, eight different SAP screens (including tabs) must be populated before users can create a PM notification.

AFTER



After GuiXT, the same transaction has been simplified down to a single and much simpler SAP screens.