



U.S. State Government Minimizes Network Administration With BlueZone™

Typically, state governments in the United States store critical information in legacy systems that are accessed by many user constituencies in multiple organizations throughout the state. In one U.S. state, the Department of Administration InterTechnologies Group is responsible for managing the state's mainframe system. This group runs important applications for state and county agencies, such as the Department of Human Services and the Department of Public Safety.

Since the Department of Administration InterTechnologies Group is a service bureau for other state agencies and in some instances contract employees, they are unable to mandate how software updates are distributed to each individual desktop. With more than 10,000 people across the state connecting to its mainframe, the state was experiencing mounting desktop emulation license costs and a cumbersome de-centralized software distribution process. As part of an upgrade to the mainframe systems, the state decided to evaluate Web-based alternatives to its existing PC-based emulation product to address these issues.

Like many large government organizations, the state has users that run the gamut of technical experience. Users requiring access to the mainframe applications ranged from PC-savvy to computer-phobic. The state was in need of a full-featured emulation solution that was intuitive and easy-to-use, and which also had central administration features to make installation and maintenance easier.

After a comprehensive evaluation, the state selected Seagull Software's BlueZone technology, a component of LegaSuite®. BlueZone is a thin, fast, full-function Web-to-host and PC-to-host terminal emulation solution for IBM mainframe, iSeries, UNIX/DEC and secure File Transfer Protocol connectivity.

With BlueZone, the state can now deploy and maintain reliable terminal emulation efficiently and affordably, without straining their system administration resources. The state launched BlueZone to thousands of users, who simply clicked on a Web link to install. And because BlueZone has such a small footprint—browser-based emulation requires a download of only 1.5 Mb, while desktop installation is smaller than 5.3 Mb—the state minimized the use of disk space. "Compared to BlueZone, our previous emulation solution was a very bulky, cumbersome product. The host was enormous, administration was time-consuming and it had compatibility problems. BlueZone alleviated those problems," said the state's senior systems programmer.



For the state's users, BlueZone offers an easy access method. Users simply launch their browsers and click a link to connect to the host application. So regardless of users' computer experience, BlueZone gives them effortless access to the state's legacy applications in a browser. And Seagull Software is expert at converting incumbent technology without interrupting business operations. BlueZone can easily match the look, feel and features of old emulators—making the transition to BlueZone virtually transparent to users.

The state chose BlueZone because it included the security options they required. Sensitive data is transferred between the mainframe and various state agencies on a daily basis, making a solution with high security standards a major requirement. Right out of the box, the BlueZone emulator supports Secure Sockets Layer (SSL v3.0 and TLS v1.0), the Internet protocol standard for ensuring privacy, message integrity and authentication.

By choosing BlueZone, the state experienced advantages that they could not have yielded from other solutions. BlueZone delivers a low total cost of ownership through its flexible licensing options, permitting customers to choose the type of licensing that best suits their needs—either concurrent or per seat. "We walked away with a very attractive license agreement," said the senior systems programmer. And the state minimized spending since BlueZone upgrades are included in annual maintenance subscriptions.

In addition, deployment and maintenance problems associated with supporting geographically dispersed state offices have been eradicated. "BlueZone's thin, full-function browser-based emulation enables us to offer reliable access to the mainframe applications with minimal maintenance," said the senior systems programmer. "We are extremely pleased with the BlueZone product."

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*Senior Systems Programmer
U.S. State Government*



Seagull Software specializes in powerful technology for connecting proprietary legacy applications to service-oriented architectures in J2EE and .NET environments. The LegaSuite® platform of integration, Web-enablement and terminal emulation solutions reflects over 14 years of legacy liberation experience, and is used by over 8,000 organizations around the world for business-critical operations.

Every day, millions of end users depend on LegaSuite for online banking, relocation services, e-government, insurance claims processing, cable/utility/telecom call centers, kiosk bill payment, online order processing and many other important business processes.

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