Total Asset Management Solution Launched

Services management systems pioneer and one of Australia’s longest standing ‘Software-as-a-Service’ (SaaS) providers, Yarris, has integrated its field services system with IBM Maximo® to create a first of its kind software application capable of managing assets and the people that manage those assets.

Targeted at facility managers and the owners of large assets such as utilities, telcos, Local Government, procurement, transport, mining and resources sectors, the integrated offering will be hosted by Yarris and will be available as a ‘software-as-a-service’ (SaaS).

This is the first time IBM has collaborated with a business in Australia to provide IBM Maximo® as part of an integrated service or a SaaS solution. The new arrangement is a major coup for the home-grown Australian company, which has not only expanded its product and service offering, but now has access to an international market.

The integrated offering is a total solution and is capable of managing the full maintenance lifecycle of an asset. The IBM Maximo® part of the solution identifies where and when repair or maintenance work is required (be it the refurbishment of a power station generator, or the replacement of a swing in a children’s playground) and generates the appropriate order.

The Yarris Field Services Management System - which manages the entire job process, from work order creation through to variations’ approval, job close out and invoicing - is then activated. The system starts by selecting and engaging external contractors, automatically matching contractors to the job in question by factoring in their rates, availability, past performance, quality of work, and checking for the necessary certification and safety records.

For the duration of the job, contractors are required to record start and completion times, providing asset owners with full transparency about job status and work in progress - whether it is on schedule, or running behind. This enables asset owners to get the best performance out of field workers, ensuring their services are efficient and cost effective.

Users of the service have access to the solution via a secure external hosted environment, allowing them to ‘rent’ the service on a monthly basis. This reduces capital expenditure and the complexities associated with installing and managing on-premise software. It also enables businesses to focus on their core business, rather than spending time and resources developing, hosting and maintaining applications.

Rather than the usual 6-12 months it takes to implement a more complex system, it now takes three months to complete customisation and to have the integrated system available on the Yarris platform for use.

To find out more about the new integrated Yarris-IBM Maximo® solution, visit www.yarris.com, or phone (03) 9856 2600.
Australia’s Digital Future a Step Closer

The Rudd Government has unveiled a roadmap for Australia’s participation in the digital economy with the launch of Australia’s Digital Economy: Future Directions, a paper to outline the key areas of focus for Government, industry and the community to promote Australia’s success in the digital economy. The paper also includes 12 case studies of Australians who have successfully engaged with the digital economy from a range of different sectors.

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, said Australia’s Digital Economy: Future Directions identifies the benefits for Australia in maximising the investment in broadband infrastructure and developing a world-class digital economy. “Australia needs a digitally aware and enabling government, a digitally confident, innovative and skilled industry and a digitally literate and empowered community. The paper explores the actions we need to advance to enhance these key factors for success,” Senator Conroy said. “It is time now for Government, industry and the community to work together, to foster and harness the benefits on offer in the digital economy,” he said.

Australia’s Digital Economy: Future Directions has been developed in close collaboration with industry and other stakeholders through a three-stage consultation process including industry workshops, a blog and a consultation draft paper, and has been published in multiple formats. Australia’s Digital Economy: Future Directions is available online at www.dbcde.gov.au/digital_economy/final_report.

Kentish Council’s Website Can Talk!

Kentish Council has made it easier to access information on its website by implementing the new BrowseAloud service, which will read the website aloud.

Visitors to the Kentish Council website can now benefit from having website content read aloud in a high-quality, natural sounding voice, with each word highlighted as it is spoken. This audio-visual reinforcement will assist those who find it difficult to read text on screen, including those with low literacy levels, dyslexia, learning difficulties, mild visual impairments and English as a second language.

Brian Stark, ITC Co-ordinator at Kentish Council said as more and more people access Council services online, we are delighted to be able to provide BrowseAloud, a new service that will make our website even more accessible for our online visitors. “This complements the work we have done to make our website as user-friendly as possible,” he said. “BrowseAloud is easy to use and offers features that will assist a wide range of users to interact with the Council website”.

Kentish Council is the first Council in Tasmania to enhance the accessibility of its website with BrowseAloud. It joins a community of almost 3,000 organisations worldwide that have adopted BrowseAloud, including a growing number of Australian Councils, such Hobsons Bay City Council, Townsville City Council, the City of Greater Bendigo and The Hills Shire Council.

For further information about BrowseAloud, visit www.browsealoud.com or contact Samantha on s.corr@browsealoud.com. For further information about Kentish Council and to see BrowseAloud in action, visit www.kentish.tas.gov.au.