

Application for 2010 Larry L. Sautter Award for Innovation in Information Technology
University of California, Riverside – iReport Web Delivery Tool for IBM Mainframe Reports



“iReport improves the internal control environment by allowing department System Access Administrator to specify the recipients of various campus reports. I love that it is integrated with our single sign-on environment and administrative portal for easy access. iReport eliminates the manual distribution of paper reports, reduces the need for physical storage space, and saves trees! iReport is a wonderful application.”

Bobbi A McCracken

Associate Vice Chancellor For Financial Services
Accounting

Overview

As part of UCR's ongoing efforts to enhance administrative effectiveness and efficiencies, and with the additional goal of lessening the impact of paper printing on the environment, Finance and Business Operations (FBO), Vice Chancellor Student Affairs (VCSA) and Computing and Communications (C&C) has developed the new iReport system. iReport is a web tool that converts reports into a digital/electronic format for ease of distribution, access, and storage (these digital reports are available in formats such as PDF, Excel, or text)

iReport organizes reports by repository and category. With hundreds of reports being stored, the repositories and categories provide a quick means to navigate directly to desired reports. A search engine also provides a quick means of navigating to reports. This robust search feature allows reports to be located by report ID or key words in the descriptive title.

Importantly, iReport uses UCR's Centralized Authentication System (CAS) and the Enterprise Access Control System (EACS) to secure and control access. Access to most reports is granted by Departmental SAAs, while some reports with sensitive information require authorization to be granted by a centralized Application SAA, assigned specialized authorization for the category.

Background

UCR was using a Sungard product (Eprint) for delivery of reports to the web. There were several major issues with Eprint...

1. Costly annual maintenance
2. Eprint did not work with UCR's CAS single signon, or EACS authentication systems
3. Proprietary software, requiring UCR to allow Sungard system level access for application of maintenance

As cutbacks continued to increase, we received a request from HR to move all PPS reports from UCOP to electronic media. This would not only free up nearly 8 hours per week that staff was spending breaking reports down by department and mailing them out, but also the time to pick up the reports at the computing center. Additionally, HR wanted access to be the same as the rest of their enterprise business systems (CAS/EACS single sign-on), as well as access via UCR's R'Space portal.

UCR decided to draw upon its common Oracle/PLSQL platform, to develop its own report to web system. This system would have everything requested, and would be used campus-wide, not just by HR.

Highlights

- Built on Oracle/Solaris platform, common to UCR enterprise applications
- Uses CAS/EACS for authentication/authorization with authorization granted by the user department.
- Accessible via R'Space portal
- Reports can be broken down and secured by Org/Department/Activity
- Sensitive data authorized by specialized Application SAAs
- Paper reduction
- No more manual report breakdown and distribution
- "Favorites" list for easy access to specific reports
- Search feature

Timeline

- July, 2008 Design begins
- August 2008 Presentation of prototype to users for format approval
- July, 2009 Parallel loading of existing Eprint reports to both Eprint and iReport
- May, 2010 Document requirements available to students via Self Service

Technology and Implementation

- iReport runs on an Oracle database.
- Uses web services to check authorization, accountability structure
- CASI Soft PDF software running on IBM to create PDFs and break down reports by dept
- Reports ftp'd from source IBM
- Banner reports ftp'd from Oracle
- Existing Eprint reports converted first
- PPS reports all migrated from paper to iReport

Testimonials

“The Payroll Office and the UCR campus will gain tremendously from the recent implementation of the iReport application. Every month, we would no longer print and distribute 4-5 boxes of reports (approximately 20,000-25,000 pages). The reports are now delivered on time and accessible to people who are authorized to view and print them when needed. Reports are more secure because they’re not mailed to departments where they may be exposed to people who are not supposed to get them. The application will simplify the accessibility of historical reports which used to be hard to get because they had been purged to offsite location. We are going to save a lot of time and resources by going online. It’s a win, win for UCR. Thanks to UCR Computing and Communications for making this application available to us.”

Gabe Nwandu MBA, CPA

Director - Payroll, Disbursements & Travel

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