Anderson Business Technology steps into the future with NorthgateArinso

Anderson teamed up with NorthgateArinso to overhaul its system from TigerLogic's outdated AP/Pro, to a contemporary Reality database in a Microsoft Windows server environment.

The changes were immediate, and spectacular.

"I have a report I have to run each month as a business check," said Anderson. "Previously I used to stay behind at the close of business because it would take around two hours to run and print. Now it is virtually instantaneous. Other reports that took fifteen minutes now take two seconds."

History plus heritage - and now a look ahead

The past century has brought seismic changes in business technology that revolutionized the commercial world. Since 1912, Anderson Business Technology has had its finger on this field's rapid pulse, adapting, responding to change, and growing.

Unsurprisingly for a company that began as a one-man operation fixing typewriters in the tin-roofed loft of a stationery shop, evolution is a pretty big deal at Anderson.

As the Pasadena firm's 100th anniversary approaches, generations of Southern Californian business people have had their office needs met with the same ethos of personal service spawned by company founder C. Elmer Anderson.

Anderson, a former typewriter repairman, moved from the Midwest with a dream and handful of dollars at a time when the headlines were full of the sinking of the Titanic and the opening of Fenway Park.

Survival of the fastest

While typewriters have given way to copiers, printers, fax machines and other staples of 21st century business, his legacy of commitment to detail and evolutionary development remains.

The company has been in its picturesque building on Colorado Boulevard for 67 years and has been a lasting presence at Pasadena's historic core. Modern times though, have brought modern challenges. "There is no other sector that moves as fast as technology," said David Anderson, company president and grandson of the founder. "If you are not prepared to make the changes you need to keep pace, you don't survive."

Swift transition, immediate benefit

When Anderson found that the company's operating system was unable to effectively maintain the pace needed to optimally fit the needs of customers and staff, swift action was needed.

"Previously I used to stay behind at the close of business because it would take around two hours to run and print. Now it is virtually instantaneous. Other reports that took fifteen minutes now take two seconds."

David Anderson,
Company President,
Anderson Business Technology

NorthgateArinso

"… the positive changes started making us more effective as a business right away - and continue to do so."

David Anderson,
Company President

Yet the most critical factor why Anderson chose Reality and the integration team spearheaded by NorthgateArinso's Reality Vice President Mark Pick, was the promise of a seamless crossover from the old format to the new model.

Pick and his crew worked with Anderson's staff extensively before the changeover in order to cut down on disruption. Anderson admits he was stunned by the smoothness of the switch.

"We left on a Friday with the old way and came back in on Monday to find everything up and running perfectly," he said. "Mark and his team had come in over the weekend and we were ready to go. You are always nervous when big alterations like this take place and I feared we would have some problems.

"As it was, not only did we not have those difficulties but the positive changes started making us more effective as a business right away – and continue to do so."

Pick, the father of Reality

For Pick, whose father Dick pioneered the Reality operating system, Anderson Business Technology was the latest in a long line of clients who have had their operational practices revamped by the enhanced Reality product.

"With Anderson we rejuvenated their system and brought it up to speed with the needs of a modern company," said Pick. "We provided integration that allows superior web-based functionality with Microsoft tools, plus super-charged performance and connectivity."

"We give our clients this level of enhancement and service, while focusing on making the transition as painless as possible. We take pride in laying a foundation for our clients to enhance their own success and profitability."