Application Development History

Approach 1: In-House Development (From Scratch)

We initially planned to develop the inventory management system completely from scratch using a MySQL database, and our initial schedule reflects this. This plan did not last long—during our preliminary research, we quickly determined that our limited (or complete lack of) experience with the necessary technologies made a “from scratch” implementation infeasible.

Approach 2: In-House Development (WordPress)

After realizing that a “from scratch” implementation was infeasible, we explored the viability of using a plugin-modified WordPress site hosted using Amazon Web Services. Once again, we quickly realized that this was not a suitable pairing of technologies. While it was more closely matched with our group’s experience and expertise, we came up against certain rigidity in the plugin’s functionality, as well as higher-than anticipated hosting costs. Both of these factors forced us to reconsider our choice of technology.

Approach 3: In-House Development (SnipeIT)

This approach was the one we explored most briefly. After abandoning WordPress, we explored SnipeIT as a possible alternative. SnipeIT would have offered the flexibility required by our team but, like WordPress, it would have required a significant amount of work on our part to tailor it to our needs. It also failed to answer the question of how we would mitigate or remove hosting costs. After only a couple of days spent exploring this option, it was abandoned.

Approach 4: In-House using SaaS (AssetTiger)

After exploring the options above, our team finally discovered AssetTiger. AssetTiger is a cloud-based inventory management system that met the needs of our sponsor “out of the box”. In fact, once we found it, it took us only an evening to configure it to our sponsor’s specifications. It was at this point that we filed an internal Change Request Form and modified our schedule to reflect our project’s change in scope—because we had allocated most of the project lifetime towards development that was no longer necessary, we expanded our deliverables to include a detailed, step by step help document.