

Modernize and Enhance Legacy Applications

As funding programs emerged for mass transit, small systems were quickly constructed to meet the division's new grant program responsibilities. Though each new application met a particular need, the utility of each was undercut by individual contractor's lack of system documentation. Also, employees had to navigate through multiple systems and Excel sheets to complete simple tasks. TransIT offers a consolidated solution. By converting data, considering future demands, and bringing together these smaller systems that were responsive to distinct operations, TransIT provides Caltrans with a sustainable, personalized, and highly efficient solution for their grants system.

Key Benefits to the Client

- **Centralized Data** – Data can be found in one centralized repository. Employees no longer need to pull information from multiple repositories or be concerned with the resulting errors and inconsistencies.
- **Centralized Reporting** – Centralized data enabled centralized reporting. The DMT division now has access to consistent data for generating all scheduled reports. Users can quickly create, update, and maintain new/existing reports; reports can be produced more quickly, accurately, and less effort.
- **Integrated Forms** – Forms can now be generated automatically and populated with data from the database. This saves time improves the quality and consistency of the data presented in these forms.
- **A "Road Map" for Future Enhancements** – Our approach has left behind a code structure and several re-usable components, which will serve as a "road map" of best practices for future development.
- **A More Malleable and Maintainable Code Base** – We left behind a code structure that is easier to enhance and maintain.

Background

Within Caltrans, the Division of Mass Transportation's (DMT) primary responsibility is the administration of State (approx. \$3.1 bn across 7 programs) and Federal (approx. \$83.5 mn across 7 programs) grant programs that provide funding for operating assistance and capital improvement projects in public transportation. Before the TransIT system was implemented, this information was tracked across multiple databases and spreadsheets. Because of this, DMT was unable to meet routine reporting requirements for transit grant programs. The TransIT solution uses the base functionality of the existing Online Data Input System (ODIS) as the starting point and will replace the 2 existing FileMaker Pro databases currently maintained by DMT staff. TransIT enables a single application to administer all transit grant programs administered by DMT.

Program Specifics:

Around 100+ internal users (57 staff in two Headquarters (HQ) DMT offices and an additional 60 staff in districts), plus a "To Be Determined" number of external users (the application has not yet been opened to external users).

TransIT worked intimately with Caltrans' DMT division to elect and implement technology designed to enable the following processes:

Current applications can track state and federal grant programs and business processes:

- The applications are now supported by the company's IT department.
- Systems that had limited capabilities and did not interface with other data sources are now competent and integrated.
- The need to use multiple Excel spreadsheets for tracking data, which resulted in inconsistent, difficult, and time consuming reporting, has been rendered obsolete.
- The performance measurement mandated by the federal grant programs can now be met with accuracy.

Grant program data is now available in a centralized repository:

- Data found across multiple repositories was often inconsistent; the centralized repository promises that users have access to dependable data.
- Requests for project information, from managers or other parties, are manageable. They can be filled accurately, quickly, and conveniently.

Routine reporting requirements for transit grant programs can be met:

- Tracking and reporting requirements can be met with greater ease and less time.
- Staff no longer has to compile reports from multiple sources. Deadlines can be met, reports are accurate, and staff can devote more time to other tasks.

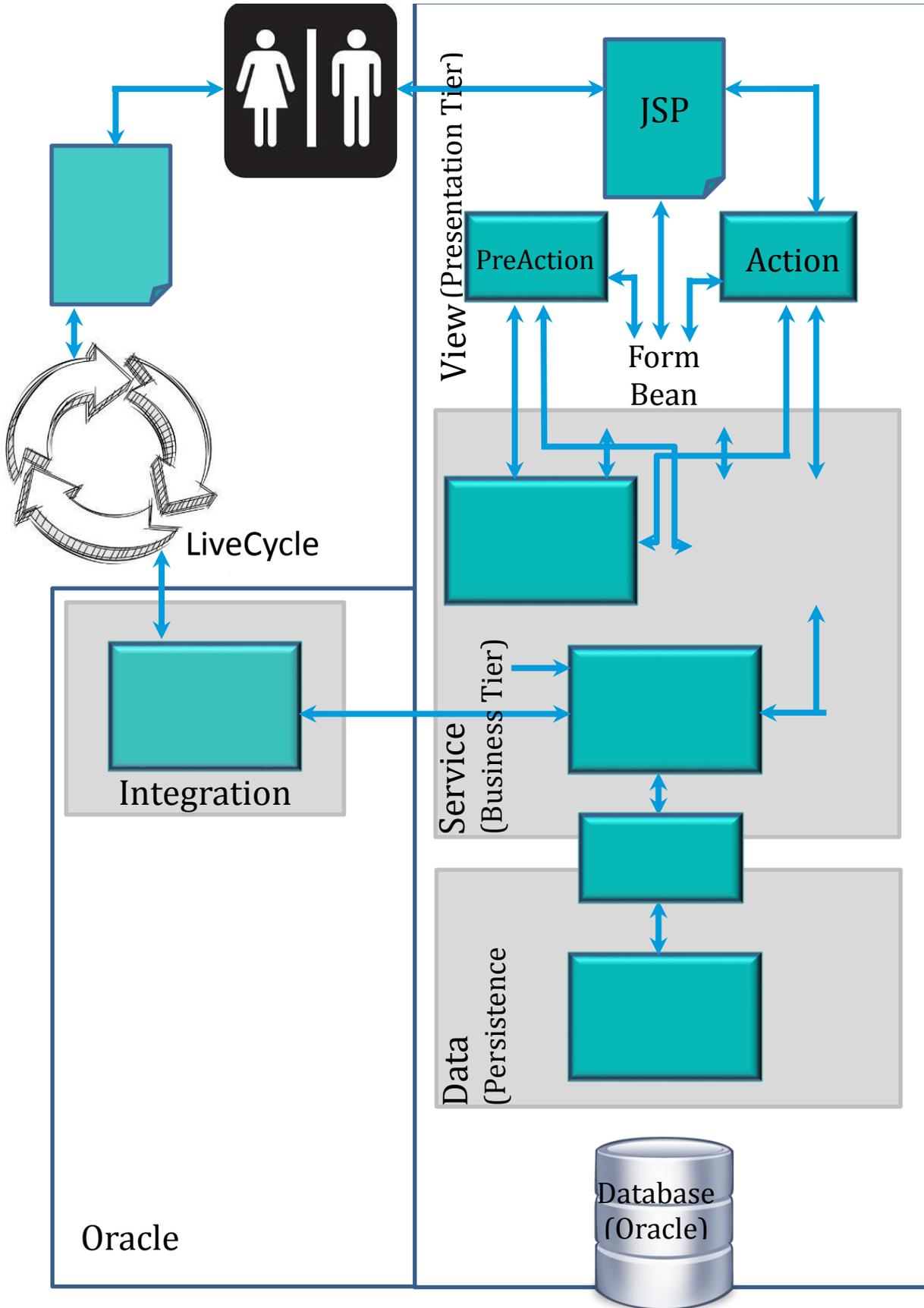
Transit grant program projects are now administered in accordance with mandates of each program:

- The program now has the information management capabilities necessary for effective administration required in response to audit mandates.
- TransIT also addressed the audit's findings by ensuring the timely submission of reports.
- The office technology now stores historical actions and is readily learned through its user-friendly operation. This is significant in the DMT office environment where staff turnover is "built in" due to budgeting entirely with two-year, limited-term positions.

TransIT enabled the DMT division to develop procedures and guidelines when administering transit grant programs:

- The TransIT solution addressed the organizations need to establish grant administration procedures and guidelines. Project files are now intact and transit projects are thoroughly documented.
 - TransIT's solution emphasizes and allows the DMT division to respond to information requests from management and other stakeholders.
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Figure 1. TransIT architectural diagram. Database is abbreviated to DB. JSP stands for Java Server Pages.



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2015 J Street, Suite 105
 Sacramento, CA 95811
 916.779.0201
www.trinitytg.com

