Case Study:

Hurricane HHW Database

Features

- Compatible with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) data collection hardware and Global Positioning System (GPS) cards
- Deployed in 1.5 days, from concept to working database in the hands of the field crews
- Included forms for collection of staging area air quality readings

Application

As part of an Environmental Protection Agency Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team, Terraine Environmental was tasked with Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) reconnaissance efforts throughout Grand Isle, Louisiana. The initial project called for a great deal of data collection in very remote geographic regions. These data were to be collected by a previously developed application that was limited by client to server one-way communication, thereby restricting the ability to work efficiently and accurately. Members of the Terraine Environmental team worked to rapidly develop and deploy an Adesso database to be loaded on FEMA data collection hardware and used in the field. The database was used to collect and prioritize HHW information; obtain GPS readings of the HHW location; and link photographs to database records, which assisted on-site work crews in identifying, managing, and staging/removing the HHW.

Benefits

- Data available to field personnel once collected
- Built on site using a laptop with no permanent electric grid (no need for high end computer equipment or facilities)
- Maintained all stakeholder information in near real time
- Collected data more efficiently, more accurately, and in remote areas without Internet connectivity
- Utilized synchronization capability of the system to copy photographs to local laptop hard drives of stakeholders, allowing each to visually see HHW instead of merely reading a description

Highlights

Hardware Used

- FEMA-owned HP iPaq (Pocket PC)
- Compact flash GPS cards

Software Used

- Adesso Application
- Adesso Server
- Adesso ODBC Driver
- Windows® Mobile

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