



## CASE STUDY: LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

**CLIENT:** SirsiDynix



**PROJECT TITLE:** HEAT

**PROJECT DOMAIN:** Business application development

**BUSINESS DOMAIN:** Software and technology

**BACKGROUND** SirsiDynix, the global leader in new-name sales of library management systems, serves more than 12,500 academic, municipal, consortium, and special libraries in over 40 countries. Most of its customers are using Dynix, a library management product created nearly 20 years ago. Horizon, a product originally targeted for single-site special libraries with client/server environments, had become the upgrade path for Dynix customers. Although some clients were pleased with the move from Dynix to Horizon, an unacceptable number of customers began looking elsewhere for an ILS solution. To protect the company's market share, SirsiDynix determined to build an entirely new product, which would incorporate the latest available technology, providing cost effective ways of selling, delivering, and supporting the new system. In 2004, after an exhaustive global search for a development partner, SirsiDynix selected StarSoft, beginning a collaborative relationship that continues today.

**PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS** The primary objective was to create a system that could be developed quickly and easily, while adding new features that would meet and exceed the performance of competitive products. The new system would have all the features required by a modern library, but go beyond the company's legacy products in terms of packaging, presentation, and ease of use. Other demands on the new product included dramatic improvements in performance, scalability, and security. The system would include methods of quickly acquiring new materials into the library, including monographs, serials, media, and electronic resources, and would have the ability to catalog these materials and index them to provide maximum accessibility to patrons. Library patrons would have the ability to specify and organize their preferences, searches and search results, and be alerted to materials that match these preferences. The new system would also easily interface with a large variety of 3rd party systems integral to library workflow and information access.

**DURATION:** Dec 2004 - present

**OFFSHORE TEAM SIZE:** 24

**PRICING:** T&M

**METHODOLOGY** The project was implemented using Scrum, an Agile software development methodology that emphasizes intense communication between the development team and the "owners" (end users) of the product. Agile methodologies are rarely used in outsourced projects, precisely because of their focus on close interaction between the developers and the business users. However, if used correctly, Agile methodologies can bring tremendous productivity to a project, and improve quality. In this project, a system containing more than 1 million lines of source code was successfully developed by teams working out of three different locations around the globe: Provo, Utah; Waterloo, Canada; and St. Petersburg, Russia. This project has been recognized by experts as one of the largest most successful outsourced Scrum projects in the world.

### TECHNOLOGIES

**DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT:** Sun Java 1.5, J2EE, Hibernate

**OPERATING SYSTEMS:** Sun Solaris, Red Hat Linux, SuSE Enterprise, Windows 2000/2003

**HARDWARE PLATFORMS:** Sun, SunFire, IBM RS6000, PC, HP AIX, HP Proliant ML, Dell PowerEdge, Blade

**RDBMS:** Sybase, Oracle, DB2, MS SQL

**CUSTOMER BENEFITS** *"We are collaborating with StarSoft on a very large system software development project which is on schedule and moving quickly. I have been doing software development for over 30 years now at both large companies like IBM and startup companies like MobileWare, and have never experienced a smoother engagement. This development project was negotiated, signed and staffed with more than 20 qualified engineers in less than 60 days. Significant development milestones were completed in just a few weeks and all joint development projects are being efficiently tracked and are on schedule. I am extremely pleased with our partnership."* - Jack Blount, CTO, SirsiDynix.

