

Driving Digital Transformation for Government Inspections



With increasing threats from cattle diseases, the USDA needed a fail-proof mobile data collection solution to improve speed and flexibility and deliver peace of mind to government officials and U.S. consumers. Within a short deadline of 12 weeks, Mi-Corporation delivered a highly mobile solution for inspections. The USDA deployed 90 mobile devices running our Mobile Impact Platform for inspectors to record test-site conditions, results, and sample characteristics. Results were sent directly to the APHIS database for real-time access delivering mission-critical information directly from the inspection. Upon adopting our mobile inspection software, USDA saw an 8x increase year over year in the number of inspections performed.

By leveraging multiple Microsoft Azure technologies such as Azure Government, Virtual Machines, Azure SQL, DevOps, Storage, and Power BI, we enable our customers, including the USDA, to reduce costs by consolidating data centers to the Microsoft Cloud. Our field inspection customers get field data quickly and accurately for immediate insight into field situations, that are enhanced by analytics tools such as our Mi-Analytics software component. This is particularly important for our USDA Veterinary Services customer as they monitor animal diseases that could impact the world's food supply and, in some cases, could jump to humans.

"The Mobile Impact Platform reduces our inspection processing time by pulling existing data – facility name, contact information, species, etc. into new inspection forms. It now takes less than five minutes to complete multiple inspection points at one facility."

SUNNY GEISER-NOVOTNY, DVM, MS

ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY STAFF VETERINARIAN, USDA APHIS VS STRATEGY & POLICY



A Leader for Flexible Government Inspection Solutions

The Mobile Impact Platform is a flexible and robust software solution that enables a variety of government entities and other organizations to custom-build inspection solutions to improve workforce efficiencies, increase productivity, reduce costs, and increase profits. By implementing our mobile inspection forms and workflow solutions for inspections, agricultural and livestock agencies including the USDA, and those of Georgia, Arkansas, Nebraska, Idaho, New Mexico, Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia, Indiana, and Connecticut have transformed and optimized their paper or PDF form-based business processes.

Beyond agriculture, our platform serves as the statewide Mobile Inspection Solution for the State of Connecticut, serves Transport for London in the UK, and many government inspectors across the United States performing environmental health inspections, restaurant inspections, elevator inspections, and construction code compliance inspections. We are found in ten states for State Government agriculture-related inspections; six states for environmental health inspections, including restaurant inspections; and our elevator inspections customers serve government in all fifty states.

Leveraging Microsoft Technologies

The Mobile Impact Platform is backed by Windows Server and SQL technology hosted either on-premise or in the Microsoft Azure Government Cloud.

Microsoft Application & Infrastructure is used to collaborate with our customers using DevOps. Inviting customers as stakeholders – or in appropriate cases as collaborators – to customize solutions enables a quicker Agile deployment process than traditional waterfall methods. This leads to a more accurate assessment of needs and faster deployment process.

Microsoft Data & AI is used to support the system,

"I have been involved in several technology projects during my career, and this one may have set the record for the least amount of time from concept to deployment. I think we were able to complete the process in less than 30 days."

ALAN LOWMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION
FOUNDATION OF GEORGIA, INC

particularly in our solution's usage of Azure SQL (cloud-hosted) or Microsoft SQL Server (client-hosted). The database plays a key role in deploying mobile data capture solutions and is the central aggregator of captured field data. Customers can automatically build SQL databases with a simple click of a button within our design tool, enabling robust reporting and data-driven decision making. Mi-Analytics backed by Power BI provides interactive charts, graphs, and reports based on captured field data to give powerful insights to management.

Embracing the power of web services and other integration solutions, the Mobile Impact Platform has been integrated with Microsoft Dynamics, Oracle, DB2, SharePoint, OneDrive, and other on-premise and cloud-based software systems.

Cloud Adoption

Several customers leverage the Azure Government Cloud for increased peace of mind. Our back-end solution used for cattle brand recording, inspections, and inspection fee tracking in the State of Idaho is built on the Microsoft Dynamics platform. Cloud adoption simplifies implementations and reduces dependence on IT, making it more attractive for agricultural compliance program users to adopt our Mobile Impact Platform to increase efficiency and productivity.

Because our solution is cloud-hosted, it enables easy collaboration between subject matter experts, solution developers, and our team. Our cloud-based design tool allows user interface development,

supporting a rich set of data types and automatic Microsoft SQL database creation and updating. As data is collected in mobile inspection forms, the database is automatically updated, and if the forms change, the database adapts. The collected data is easily visualized using Mi-Analytics. While digital transformation in government due to cloud-based aggregated data and analytics-based insights is in the early stages, the robust Microsoft infrastructure and advanced capabilities such as Azure Machine Learning make for a promising and exciting future.

Conclusion

The Mobile Impact Platform, our award-winning, end-

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)

In Virginia's Office of Pesticide Services, field investigators now carry tablet computers with digital forms created by Mi-Corporation. By using a mobile solution based on the Windows operating system and our software, inspectors have improved data accuracy and efficiency. The agency has saved thousands of dollars per year on paper-related costs and IT consulting fees. Virginia Pesticide Services reported a reduction in time spent on forms in the field from a minimum of 30 minutes to less than 10 minutes per inspection.

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

The field inspectors for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services were using a paper-based data collection process for years, filling out paper forms onsite and mailing them back to headquarters. Once received, the form data was reviewed, approved, and manually entered. Making the switch from this inefficient and error-prone process to our mobile platform not only yielded increased efficiency and accuracy but also reduced processing time from three weeks to two days. The NCDCA saw a net ROI of nearly \$220,000 and an annual savings of \$72,000.

to-end mobile data capture solution encompassing inspection forms, analytics, and office workflow processes, is an intuitive and user-friendly digital transformation platform. In State Agencies, such as agriculture, our customers perform inspections for pesticide licensing, livestock, animal health certificates, food safety, animal welfare, dairy, plant and nursery, feed and seed licensing, and so much more. Thousands of our government users around the country perform inspections of everything from restaurants to elevators to construction sites, keeping our citizens safe.

"Instead of spending 30 minutes of a 60-minute inspection filling out forms, inspectors spend 10 minutes on forms, which increases the quality of time spent on site."

DOUG EDWARDS
PROJECT TECHNICIAN, OFFICE OF PESTICIDE SERVICES,
VDACS



"It's not just about the money saved. The speed, the time, the accuracy...that kind of thing is improving, and it's just a much cleaner system."

DWIGHT SEAL
WESTERN DISTRICT MANAGER, NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE