

WorldReach Software

Advantages of WorldReach's SaaS Solutions



Software as a Service (SaaS) is a growing, innovative approach for delivering software applications over the Internet, typically with an externally hosted or Cloud installation. WorldReach Software now offers the flexibility of 2 implementation approaches:

- The SaaS/Cloud based model of our proven consular products can now be deployed much more rapidly and reduces the need for a dedicated infrastructure and ongoing costs that self-hosted applications require. Configuration options are provided to meet the unique needs of many Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFAs). This option allows ministries to quickly and cost effectively modernize their consular services.
- MFAs who want an internally hosted or their own private cloud implementation or require major customizations should consider WorldReach's licensed product offerings.

Low Initial Costs and No IT Infrastructure Investment

SaaS is delivered to MFAs as a subscription model billed on a periodic basis (typically quarterly or annually), as opposed to licensed software with larger upfront payments and annual license maintenance and support fees. This means that under the SaaS model the software costs are incurred only as long as the software is in use. Investing in expensive infrastructure upgrades or additions is not required since the application is hosted by WorldReach on the Cloud. All large initial investments on hardware, software licenses, databases, ongoing overhead of employing and training IT staff, software and hardware maintenance and upgrades are replaced by WorldReach's Cloud service. Consular end-users can securely access and use the application on the Internet directly or via the MFA's network connection to the Internet using a browser.



Flexibility

The SaaS option provides additional flexibility that MFAs will value, including:

- a choice of shorter contractual duration - this allows more frequent windows to decide on continuing use of the software or considering alternatives
- the ability to start with a subset of posts and Headquarters or a subset of modules and then expand usage to other posts and other modules
- reducing upfront investments which minimizes sunk costs
- simplifying procurement options and budgeting by using annualized operating costs instead of larger capital projects with higher initial costs

Cost-effective Scalability of Software and Hardware

The pay-as-you-use model of SaaS/Cloud, gives MFAs the freedom to adapt to the changing usage of the software in terms of volume and scope. MFAs can address the top priority, such as consular assistance, and grow functionality with other modules as they are ready. Software delivered as a service on a Cloud implementation provides IT platform scalability, without requiring MFAs to commit initially to enterprise wide deployment or buy IT equipment for maximum volume periods or provide dedicated disaster recovery capabilities.

Improved Security & Redundancy

SaaS providers are in the business of providing uninterrupted reliable services. Computer platform availability and information security are top priorities and data is backed up regularly. Skilled resources highly knowledgeable in the consular applications, network redundancies, stand-by power, encrypted data transmission databases, regular backups, up-to-date security and intrusion detection are mandatory infrastructure required and provided by WorldReach support services and the Cloud installation. Such a level of infrastructural and support investment is usually very challenging for consular groups in smaller or budget-constrained MFAs.

Easy and Fast to Implement

Since the solution is delivered on the Cloud and accessed via the Internet, SaaS eliminates the hardware and software installation at the MFAs. All users can be up and running very quickly. Implementation of incremental software modules or adding posts is typically a change in configuration and access privileges.

Increased Accessibility and Productivity

Geographically separated teams and missions function better with consistent consolidated information available from a standardized system that all consular staff can access. WorldReach's web-based applications enable the secure sharing of consular, crises and passport information across the consular network via the Internet from anywhere on many devices.

Minimize Impacts on Internal IT Groups

SaaS not only eliminates the need for additional IT infrastructure fees, it substantially takes the burden off MFAs' internal IT staff. With the WorldReach SaaS advantage, IT staff do not have to manage upgrades, troubleshoot problems for platform software (such as databases) or run regular backups. This allows MFAs to direct their limited in-house IT resources towards other priorities and mandated projects, while the consular groups can modernize their operations now.

High Quality Standardized Consular Software at Lower Initial Costs with More Flexibility and Scalability

WorldReach's SaaS applications running on the Cloud are built to scale up, be cost effective, be secure and implement consular best practices, while providing savings to the MFAs compared to alternative approaches. For countries who do not have large MFAs and who can adopt the proven practices of the standardized consular software, WorldReach's SaaS/Cloud offerings provide a strong option for consular modernization.

Summary of Benefits

The SaaS/Cloud model provides risk mitigation by:

- lowering the initial investment in the IT infrastructure of servers, software or security systems. No additional infrastructure - no internal upgrading of aging server technology, and protection from unforeseen internal costs spikes;
- shortening contract terms to provide more frequent opportunities for MFAs to evaluate alternatives without the larger sunk costs which discourage changing;
- speeding deployment and allowing incremental steps towards full enterprise implementation of functionality and posts;
- allowing faster contracting given the lower procurement levels, which can significantly reduce the risk of changes in consular needs/priorities from the point of budget approval to the point implementation is done;
- operating on agreed pre-defined charges. This enables MFAs to predict the costs and helps smooth budgets for yearly financial expenses, instead of the financial risks of large initial expenses while use is still just starting.

WorldReach is continually introducing improved features, best practices and ensuring optimum performance of all our consular products.



A Proven Consular Partner

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