

Student Loan Origination System Assessment and Enhancement

Edgewater Technology assists a national private undergraduate, graduate, professional, and consolidation loan lender with the assessment, maintenance, and enhancement of their Loan Origination System

Edgewater Technology's approach provided:

- Analysis of the Loan Origination System (LOS) code and application architecture;
- Technical enhancements and fixes to the LOS;
- Compliance enhancements to the LOS;
- Creation of:
 - Visual SourceSafe environment;
 - Development Environment and a Developer's Setup Guide;
 - Development Methodology; and
 - Test and Quality Assurance (Q&A) Environments.
- Technical support of the organization's first Securitization; and
- System and Code documentation.

The Background:

This lender develops and produces innovative consumer education loan products by offering customized private undergraduate, graduate, professional, and consolidation loans featuring interest rate options and a variety of repayment plans. The lender provides real-time decision processing and reporting for both the student and the institution's financial aid officers. They work with a variety of industry partners to certify and disburse their loans to higher education institutions nationwide.

The Business Environment:

The lender determined the present LOS would not be adequate to handle their future business goals and they began to evaluate new LOS to replace their current system, while still continuing the maintenance, service and enhancements to their present LOS. The lender began to staff their Information Technology (IT) department with the skill sets required to support the new LOS, however the current system does not use the same technology as the

new system. The lender called on Edgewater Technology to conduct a current state analysis including a complete code and architecture review, and to provide knowledge transfer to their IT staff so they could support the current LOS through implementation of the new system.

The Scope of Work:

A Systems/Data Architect provided the technical expertise to evaluate the LOS application code, system architecture and create development and Q&A environments. Edgewater assisted in obtaining the application code from the previous vendor, created a Visual SourceSafe environment to maintain versions of the code and created the development and Q&A environments required to adequately test the LOS. Edgewater also documented all of the processes and provided knowledge transfer to the appropriate people in the organization.

As the lender's volume continued to increase, Edgewater developed enhancements and fixed errors in the Online Application, Customer Relationship Management and back-end processes of the LOS. Edgewater developed implementation and roll-back methodologies, and used them to create specific release implementation and roll-back documents. Edgewater also assisted in moving the data center from a vendor supported location, to a data center owned and operated by the lender. Edgewater continues to assist the lender in providing a stable, scalable platform that will support their projected growth of 150% in 2007.