

Service Highlight: Application Extension

What Is It? Application Extension is the process of extending the functionality of a packaged application through the development of smartly integrated add-on modules. Special care must be taken to ensure that the extension does not impair the performance of the core software, and that future upgrades to the software will have minimal impact on the extension.

The Situation: A client had a complex requirement to assign revenue across profit centers. The enterprise software was very capable but did not meet the client's needs for this calculation. Repeated attempts to define the calculation with the vendor's custom development team had not yielded accurate calculations.

How I Helped: Using the enterprise software as a foundation, I built a series of custom tables and views in the database. The custom tables stored the static data needed to assist with the calculations. A simple application was built to allow users to maintain the data in the custom tables when necessary. The views combined the custom tables with the standard transactional data to calculate revenue splits according to the client's requirements. The custom views were then used as a consistent source of information feeding operational and financial reports, visual display dashboards, and even payroll interfaces.

End Result: Without making modifications to the enterprise system's core functionality, the client is now able to manage operations according to their unique needs.

How I Can Help You: Working with your employees to understand where their standard software is not fully meeting their needs, I first evaluate whether or not an extension is feasible. If feasible, the requirements for the extension are documented, and then the extension is developed, tested and deployed. A deployment package is provided so that the extension can be re-applied following software upgrades or re-installations.