

QUESTIONS

WITH FATAI OSENI

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

We will like to meet you please?

Fatai Oseni is a computer scientist (Software Developer) with eleven years of experience in Software Design and Development, IT Infrastructure Deployment and Configurations. I have worked on several enterprise solutions deployments; such as SAP Implementation and Integrated, Database Administration, Messaging and Collaboration Solutions, and Enterprise Networking. I am currently Head-Technical Development Team, in the Information and Technology Unit, of the Petroleum Equalisation Fund (Mgt) Board (PEF(M)B).

Among the projects/solutions I have designed and developed for the Board are:

- i. Depot Operations Software – The first application ever built for the automation of Board's Operations at depots. This application still runs in all petroleum depots that PEF(M)B has presence in, throughout the country, and has been in use since 2006.
- ii. Verifications, Scheduling and Reporting (VSR) for processing of Marketer's claims file at PEFMB HQ. First deployed in December 2006, this solution automated the Board's operations at the headquarters and is in use till date.
- iii. AQUILA – the first e-loading software in the downstream petroleum industry, with 'real-time online processing' for the Board.

Briefly tell us about the birth of AQUILA and your experiences so far concerning project Aquila?

After assuming office as the Executive Secretary of the Board, Mrs. Sharon Adefunke Kasali sought to streamline the business operations of the Board, through full automation. The quest for such a solution was pioneered by the Head of the Information Technology Unit; Mr. Saheed Iasisi, and the Board sought help from suitable qualified companies to deploy this solution. The Head of the IT Unit continued his search for a solution and shared his conviction for success with me.

On my part, the thought of designing an online real-time web application for the Board had been in existence since October 23, 2007, following the feedback received from users of the previous solutions (Depot Operation and VSR). So, I showed him my work done on it so far and expressed my desire to continue, if I had his support – which he gladly provided both in resources and encouragement.

As a result of staff challenges and experiences in the Board's operations at depots, the head office and the downstream petroleum industry, the advancement in technology/capabilities of mobile devices and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) devices, as well as the previous attempt at resolving the user issues and enhancing operations – I set out to revolutionize the Board's business operation process from semi-automated as it is in VSR, to a fully automated solution from loading to receiving, claims management to e-payment, real-time online. This gave birth to the new Business Solution in April 2010, which was then named "AQUILA" by the sponsor – the Executive Secretary, Mrs. Sharon Adefunke Kasali.

AQUILA was primarily designed to achieve among the following;

- i. Eliminate the high volume of paper documentation



Mr. Fatai Oseni showing the Editorial Crew some of the IT equipment at hand

- ii. Automate the delivery process with proof of delivery achieved through technology.
- iii. Speed up the processing of marketers' claims.
- iv. Have real-time online records of daily bridged white products movement from one depot to another.
- v. Eliminate the health hazards in dealing with stale, mouldy paper documents from marketers' claim.
- vi. Staff can now be engaged in data analysis rather than clerical work.
- vii. Eliminate the process of marketers applying for reimbursement on their transactions.
- viii. Accommodate collaboration among the stakeholders in the downstream petroleum sector.

What are your personal and official challenges concerning the project?

My personal challenges were basically the deprivation of friends and family as a result of the demands of a project as large as this – closing late from work, working weekends and from home. Officially, the challenges had mostly been the unavailability of resources to complement the work done on our part. But after the adoption of the project by the Board in June 2010, there has barely been any request both from the Technical Team or the Support Team that has not been promptly and adequately catered for by the Board. Hence I would say – we are doing ok right now – where AQUILA is concerned.

How many depots are presently keyed to the project?

Currently AQUILA has been deployed to 33 depots, and we hope that we would deploy to all the 45 depots according to the project time frame.

What is the level of co-operation shown so far by the management?

Excellent!!! Our management is one that appreciates technology and its application to business and how it can be harnessed to improve processes. You can see this in their pioneering deployment of e-payment which is now the norm in all government agencies. For AQUILA, they have procured cutting-edge hardware and software as well as a commitment to the network infrastructure required to run a solution as robust as this. Yes, the co-operation from management has been excellent.

Is Project Aquila the first of its kind in the downstream industry so far?

Yes to the best of my knowledge, Project AQUILA is the first e-loading solution in the downstream petroleum sector. And I believe it will go a long way in charting a new course in the way business is done for all players in the sector. ■