

Case study

NY School Districts extend HP TeleForm to automate test scoring



New York Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) replace paper-based processes with HP solution

Industry
Education

Objective

NY school districts needed to improve the process of scoring the annual Regents Exams. They sought a cost-effective solution that could handle a high volume of data and compressed timeframes, while adapting to specific business needs.

Approach

HP TeleForm was selected to unify the paper-based forms processing, ensuring a consistent experience and full auditability of the test scoring process.

IT matters

HP TeleForm

Consulting services by PACE Business Solutions, an HP reseller

Business matters

- The school districts can now scan and verify the tests using local scanners and remote personnel, eliminating the need to reassign clerical staff or hire temporary personnel.
- TeleForm Designer forms improve the accuracy and consistency of processing.
- Ease of use minimizes support and training costs.
- FastScore (a TeleForm extension developed by PACE) works with any TeleForm-designed tests to automate the import, score, and export processes.



Teenagers throughout New York State know that they need to pass one final test before leaving high school, and all high school seniors in the state must take a battery of exams covering six core subjects. Known as the Regents Exams, these tests are created by the NY State Board of Regents and administered each January and June in approximately 2,000 school districts. Test results enter into the common grading systems used at the schools, and ultimately go to the NY state data warehouse.

The challenge: improve annual Regents exam scoring

Historically, BOCES processed the Regents exams using proprietary pre-printed forms that required expensive scanning equipment. The tests were either hand scored at the schools and manually transcribed into a data warehouse, or processed at BOCES offices. Twice a year, BOCES would have to reassign clerical staff or hire temporary staff to scan, score, and export the test results. This labor-intensive process could take anywhere from several days to several weeks and risked a high chance of transcription errors and lost documents.

The education department's Regional Information Centers (RICs) approached PACE Business Solutions, a long-time HP TeleForm reseller and systems integrator, looking for a way to improve the process and automate scoring of the tests. BOCES needed a cost-effective solution that could handle the volume of data, the compressed time frames, and adapt to the specific business needs of the various BOCES organizations. The ultimate goal was to get accurate information in a timely fashion to better serve the student population





About the Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)

The various New York State school districts work under the contractual guidance of 37 Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), organizations that are led by 12 Regional Information Centers (RICs). BOCES and RICs, which are arms of the NY State Education Department, provide various IT and data services to school districts throughout the state.

About HP Autonomy

HP Autonomy is a global leader in software that processes unstructured human information, including social media, email, video, audio, text, web pages, and more. Using HP Autonomy's information management and analytics technologies, organizations can extract meaning in real time from data in virtually any format or language, including structured data. A range of purpose-built market offerings help organizations drive greater value through information analytics, unified information access, archiving, eDiscovery, enterprise content management, data protection, and marketing optimization.

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The solution: unify paper-based forms processing

BOCES chose HP TeleForm to unify the paper-based forms processing, ensuring a consistent experience and full auditability of the test scoring process. The flexible architecture, powerful forms designer, ease of use, and extensibility of TeleForm enabled PACE to develop a solution that provided a faster and more accurate method of scoring the test results.

Specifically, BOCES is now able to rely on these capabilities:

- The modular components and powerful security built into TeleForm empower the school districts to scan and verify the tests using local scanners and remote personnel—eliminating the need to reassign clerical staff or hire temporary personnel.
- Forms built with the TeleForm Designer improve the accuracy and consistency of processing, enabling hundreds of exams to be processed in minutes.
- Ease of use minimizes support and training costs across the distributed workforce.
- Powerful capabilities embed intelligence within the form to navigate the business process, enabling PACE to develop a comprehensive business solution for BOCES.

TeleForm is the only solution to combine world-class information capture with meaning-based computing (MBC) technology, which enables the successful integration of people, paper, and processes. It offers the flexibility to capture information from paper-based sources, and seamlessly incorporate it into secure, automated business processes.

With TeleForm's powerful and flexible architecture, PACE developed FastScore to work with any TeleForm-designed tests to automate the import, score, and export processes. FastScore receives validated test data exports from TeleForm and scores

them automatically, without the need for any custom programming. Hundreds of test forms can be scanned at the district level, and within a few minutes the district user can log into the TeleForm Verifier to validate the captured data, run FastScore, review various analysis reports, update the pertinent grading systems automatically, and provide the FastScore export to the state data warehouse.

The benefits

For BOCES and its school districts, the ability to extend TeleForm to meet a niche business need has resulted in a dramatic decrease in total cost of ownership and a rapid return on investment. Additional benefits include:

- Regents and other state mandated exams are processed within minutes, as opposed to days or weeks when hand scored.
- Data integrity is preserved across the entire process, resulting in accurate reporting of test results.
- The districts can easily and rapidly fold information from paper into electronically based workflows.
- Users scan and verify their own test forms, realizing significant savings in labor costs.
- TeleForm test forms can be printed on standard laser paper, eliminating the cost of purchasing pre-printed, proprietary test forms.
- Pre-printed bar codes with barcoded student identification information greatly improve recognition and reduce the need to validate associated data.

For these reasons, Regents Exams designed with TeleForm Designer have now become the de facto exam design in NY State.

Learn more at

<http://www.autonomy.com/products/teleform>

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