

Smart Futures

Executive Summary

Community Partner

David Mosey

Student Consulting Team

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Background

Smart Futures is a non-profit education technology organization based in Pittsburgh. Smart Futures aims to help schools across Pennsylvania be better prepared for state required career education curriculum, by providing teachers and students an online platform to complete this education requirement. Smart Futures has been led by David Mosey for many years and is expecting to hit over 100,000 student users within the next year.

Project Description

Project Opportunity

Due to Smart Futures rapid growth, the organization needs to scale its business processes to allow the organization to hire additional team members. Smart Futures approached our team looking to integrate a full suite of business tools, Zoho, into their workflow.

Project Vision

Smart Futures needs a better process for managing their hundreds of school clients. The implementation of a system that handles client relationships, allows Smart Futures to invoice these clients on a recurring basis, and allows Smart Futures to more easily provide support to these clients will be a great benefit to the organization. For a low cost, the Zoho One suite of business tools will allow Smart Futures to fulfill all of the aforementioned goals and expand with ease.

Project Outcomes

Our team wanted to help Smart Futures not only transition to Zoho, but also make sure the organization would benefit from sustained use of the tool. In order to make sure this was possible, we spent a great amount of time producing documentation of not only how the organization's programmers should implement the new software, but how it will benefit the organization with its continued work. Our team trained David on the best practices and use cases of many of the Zoho tools. We also produced documentation that the Smart Futures team will follow to integrate different Zoho components into the Smart Futures application.

Project Deliverables

We handed over a complete set of transition documents for Smart Futures. Because the task of transitioning all of Smart Futures data would be far too much to complete in the less than ten weeks we had to work together, our team focused on setting the organization up to complete the final integration of the two systems on their own.

Recommendations

By continuing to embrace the set of Zoho tools that our team has helped Smart Futures integrate, they will be able to fully experience the benefits of using a managed solution instead of worrying about managing an in-house solution themselves. The software developers at Smart Futures will no longer need to focus on maintaining many aging back-end tools, and the business-oriented members of the Smart Futures team will have better control over how their business tools work, and will be able to more easily and effectively perform tasks using the new tools.

Student Consulting Team

Casey Al-Haddad worked in development and documentation. He is a junior in Information Systems, pursuing an additional major in Computer Science. This summer, he will be a software engineering intern with Salesforce.

Jacob Buckheit served as project manager. He is a third year Information Systems major, additionally pursuing a minor in Software Engineering. This summer, he will be working as a Software Development Intern at Hulu in Santa Monica, California.

Zehaotian Lin worked in data transfer and documentation. He is a junior in Information Systems major and is interested in database management and Human-Computer Interaction.