

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee to evaluate adoption of e-Administration paperless office in Government of Tamil Nadu, held on 13/01/2005 at 4.30 PM

Present:

1. Thiru A. Mohan,
Deputy Director General
NIC, Chennai
2. Thiru. K.M. Mehata,
Professor & Director,
Centre for Professional Development Education,
Anna University, Chennai
3. Thiru. S. Jayaprakash,
Senior System Engineer, Computer Centre
IIT Madras
4. Thiru. K. Appuswamy,
General Manager (e-Gov),
ELCOT, Chennai

The paperless office initiatives taken-up at ELCOT was briefed to the Committee and a working demonstration of the e-Administration tool was shown. The following details were explained to the Committee with a view to decide the suitability of the e-Administration tool for adoption in various Government departments.

1. ELCOT is the nodal agency of the Govt. of Tamil Nadu for introducing e-Governance practices in Tamil Nadu.
2. With an objective of strengthening the backend process for quick delivery of citizen services, it was felt necessary to implement paperless office solution in all Government offices.
3. Towards this, the following IT Companies who had paperless office solutions were invited to install trial installations in various locations during June 2003.
 - a) M/s. LL2B.com Pvt Ltd carried out the trial at the Marketing section at ELCOT, Nandanam.
 - b) M/s. Altosys Software Technology carried out the trial at the Development section at ELCOT, Nandanam.
 - c) M/s. Aithent Technology carried out the trial at Sivaganga Collectorate.
 - d) M/s. Sakshi Automation carried out the trial IT Department, Secretariat.
 - e) M/s. Newgen Technologies carried out the trial at ELCOT Communication Division, Perungudi.
4. The KM-ATOM less-paper office solution developed by Andhra Pradesh Technology Services and implemented in Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Ltd. was also studied.



5. It was found that most of the solutions were based on client-server architecture and developed using proprietary tools.
6. Among all, M/s. LL2B.COM Pvt Ltd was selected for running a pilot, for the reasons mentioned below:
 - a) They have successfully completed the trial
 - b) The product is developed using open source platform.
 - c) It is a web-enabled tool providing access from anywhere.
7. M/s. LL2B.COM Pvt Ltd carried out necessary customisations to meet the requirements of Government process. The tool has been working satisfactorily at ELCOT for the last one and half years, with about 150 concurrent users, accessing from multiple locations (ELCOT's Corporate Office, ELCOT's Procurement Division and IT Department, Secretariat).

The e-Administration tool was showcased in various forums and has won recognitions. Many Government departments have expressed their interest to adopt this tool for their e-Governance activities. Hence ELCOT proposes to promote this tool to the various Departments of the Government. For assessing the technical aspects of the tool, a committee was constituted.

Accordingly the Committee evaluated the tool. The recommendations of the Committee are as below.

1. The Committee noted that e-Administration tool was developed using open source platform such as J2EE, JBOSS (Tomcat), Linux and Postgre SQL as backend.
2. The Committee observed that the product is developed using a Modular Version Control, Cascading Style Sheet, XML and Struts framework. Hence the tool can support quick customisation and replication.
3. The Committee found that the tool is quickly scalable both vertically and horizontally and can integrate seamlessly.
4. The Committee opined that the task of developing such an application is complex in nature as can be seen from the large number of function points.
5. The Committee has come to the conclusion that the tool has many in built modules and features starting from inward communications, internal file processing and outward communications.



On the basis of the above, the Committee considered that e-Administration tool is a distinct product with unique features and has specific advantages over software developed using proprietary tools.

Considering the nature and complexity of the product, any alternative tool that may come up in future may also be evaluated on a similar basis.

Hence the Committee recommends that the e-Administration tool is a technically competent and viable tool, for promotion by ELCOT to various departments and for adoption of e-Governance practices by the Government.

The Committee also suggested incorporating the following features, to add further value to the tool.

- a) Incorporation of Digital Signature security feature as per provisions of the IT Act 2000 of Government of India.
- b) The complete documentation of the tool in terms of technical and functional aspects should be made available to end-users.
- c) The tool should be provided with Tamil language interface.



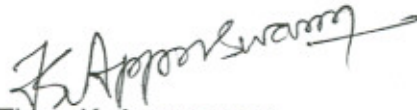
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