

Ozone: breathing new capabilities into distributed computing solutions

By KAREN MARTINS

"Tauranga City Council is very excited about Ozone," says Robyn Dines. "Everyone is thrilled about having the most modern solution available. The SQL server database offers substantial advantages with the presentation layer being the most modern I've seen."

The software and services company Origen, at the forefront of local government applications, has announced the launch of Ozone. Origen has delivered its existing integrated modules onto the Microsoft .NET environment and SQL server.

This enormous task took place throughout 2003 and 2004 and involved innumerable hours. Co-directors Richard Hunter and Roy Simpson made the decision in the first quarter of 2003 that Origen needed to re-develop its offering onto the Microsoft.NET framework.

Although the cost of such a strategic move was daunting, both directors are determined that Origen will be the leader in local government solutions in New Zealand, and irrespective of the barriers, set about to do so.

Ozone is not a dress-up of Origen's old solution, but rather a ground up build based on Microsoft platforms using the latest technologies, including SQL Reporting Services for scheduled

subscribed reports that tightly integrated into the new modules.

Tim Searle, Origen's software manager, said that although the total redevelopment in .Net was more time consuming and complex than simply undertaking a front end windows upgrade exercise, the long term advantages of a full deployment on the .Net framework are numerous and future proofs the solution for many years to come.

Essentially, Ozone represents the next generation of distributed computing solutions. A major advantage of this type of architecture is for amendments and enhancements to client side components, for example a data entry screen.

Once Origen completes a change to a client side component, it is then sent to the server ready for upload. When a user logs on and enters onto the screen, the system looks onto the server to see if a newer version exists.

If it does, then the newly amended screen is automatically passed from the server to the client via XML, and the upload is automatically applied to the machine. This process completely revolutionises the way software releases occur, and has a profound positive impact on release procedures and time involved in implementing a client-side release.

All 40 of Origen's modules have been redeveloped on the .Net framework. Origen's director Richard Hunter says that this is not a piece-meal roll-out of parts of the integrated suite, but rather the entire offering.

Origen knows that it has caught the foreign software vendors napping. He says, "It's been long overdue for a Kiwi firm to lead the market with a superior solution." He added, "Too much of New Zealand's public money has sadly been invested in over priced incomplete foreign products with local support issues."

Richard also says that Origen is a tightly integrated suite of modules, all working from a single customer and property databases. This had advantages and disadvantages.

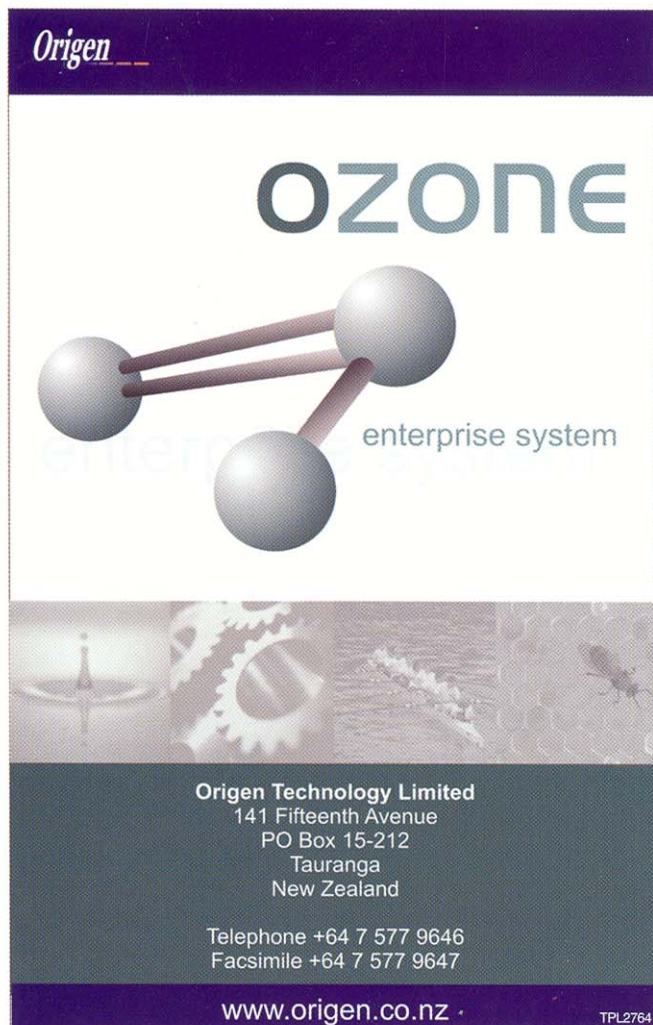
The advantages are many, for example every customer and property record holds all associations relating to them, therefore a user can see everything that has happened to that customer or property and directly drill onto that association such as building consents, animal control and rates etc.

The disadvantage was that councils couldn't really just purchase one module. This has all changed under the .NET solution. The system still remains a tightly integrated solution, but additionally each module has its own integration tool to allow the passing in and out of data to subsidiary applications.

Now councils are not required to buy the entire Origen solution but rather the modules that they require to complement their existing applications.

The roll-out of Ozone at Tauranga City Council began with the .NET Business Intelligence Module (Origen BI) that integrates into their newly purchased Document Management solution by ADI in Australia. Roll-out has also begun at Western Bay of Plenty and will also be used to interface into their pending Electronic Document Management System.

In summary, the Ozone solution has now plugged the information technology hole for New Zealand local government by providing rich functionality underpinned by leading technology. ■



The graphic features the Origen logo at the top left. The word "OZONE" is prominently displayed in a large, blue, sans-serif font. Below it, three grey spheres are connected by thin, dark lines, forming a triangular structure. The text "enterprise system" is written in a smaller, blue font to the right of the spheres. At the bottom of the graphic, there is a dark blue banner containing contact information for Origen Technology Limited, including their address in Tauranga, New Zealand, telephone and facsimile numbers, and their website URL. A small reference code "TPL2764" is visible in the bottom right corner of the banner.

Origen

OZONE

enterprise system

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