



GCT Container Depot AB, has two container terminals in Gothenburg. It needed a complete system to handle everything from announcements, in-delivery, inspection, estimation, repairs and deliveries. Gislen Software documented all requirements and developed system. During the requirements and design phase, we communicate mostly via Skype. After initial development, the various additional modules developed including EDI.



▲ To lift a 40 feet container there is a need of a heavy vehicle!

Background

GCT is a company in the industry with two stores in Gothenburg. At Risholmen they receive containers, inspect them, and estimated repair, store and send them. In addition, they do some loading and unloading as well. At the Free Port is mainly loading and unloading to and from rail track. GCG is a company within a group that also provide transportation and may thus provide full service. Magnus Niblick who is manager of GCT had previously worked for a container company, which spent Gislén Software for software development, and therefore suggested that Gislén Software would develop a new system to support the activities of GCTs. In autumn 2008 the system was discussed further.

▶ GCT load and unload goods in or out of containers with smaller vehicles. At the free harbour, this is done between containers and rail tracks but at Risholmen it is normally between containers and lorries

and the preliminary screen layouts developed started development. A first version was delivered in the first quarter and then the system has evolved further. In September 2009 came the final module

Development Process

Gislén Software has used Swedish and Indian staff for requirements and design. After initial meetings in place in Sweden, the bulk of communication with GCTs staff mainly through Skype. The development has taken place with a slightly adapted SCRUM process. A tester is included in the development team and apart from developing tests that testers have also done formal function tests during each sprint. Final deliveries have gone through a formal system testing. All installation is done from India via VPN and Remote Desktop without Gislén Software's staff had to travel to Sweden.

Description of system

GCTs customers who regularly send announcements, including a number of containers. When a rider shows up in one of GCTs container depots, he gives a reference number. GCTs truck drivers (or office staff) go down the reference number and enter the container number. An EDI message is sent to the customer that the container has been received. GCT then perform an inspection and if the container needs to be repaired is fed into one estimate. This is sent either via EDI or email / fax to the customer who can accept or request modifications. The system supports versioning

Requirement Collection

Basically GCT would have the same function as an earlier container system Gislén Software developed. Together we went through was GCT needed a different and more advanced solution. Among other things, would GCT have wireless terminals in the trucks as well as a solution in real time, giving customers the opportunity to take out reports. EDI capabilities were also much more advanced and included the estimate that was not covered by the old system. Moreover, both inbound and out notifications handled. A billing and ledger module was also included in the system.

After the specifications developed



of estimates and full price lists for materials and labour. If the customer does not accept the estimate, the container can be inserted as a damaged but ready for delivery. If the customer accepts all or part of the estimate goes on to repairs. Container is repaired and is now ready for delivery. Customers can leave the container standing on the depot shorter or longer time and the system may charge rent for this. The client sends Finally out notification and when the truck operator retrieves the container, connecting the system together with deliveries alert. The system also handles invoicing, ledgers and history and provides a number of reports. Also supported various attributes, such as containers must be reserved early as in-delivery, or kept for special delivery. The system can also earmark containers that are ready for retrieval. The system is based on the GCTs and Gislen Software's extensive experience in container systems.



At the office staff are registering notifications, in and out deliveries, and most of the estimation. Invoicing and reporting is also managed from here. But some of these activities can also be done directly from the portal units in the vehicles.

Technologies

The system is based on different technologies. The system is essentially a client server based system. A SQL Server in the background. The system that is run from offices is developed in Delphi. The portable version is developed in Dot Net, since the idea originally was that the portable units would be based on Windows Mobile. Later was elected a portable device with a Windows XP operating system. The reports are developed in Microsoft Reporting Services. The portable devices can use WIFI or 3G but

can also store data locally during periods when they do not have radio contact. There is also functionality to avoid the alerts that occur when the portable device is in the radio shadow doubled.

Maintenance and further development

Gislen Software provides support from the Indian through the VPN. As a rule, contact GCTs staff Indian staff directly, occasionally, when the problem is difficult to describe, can

Gislen Software's Swedish staff needed to act as an intermediary. The system is further developed and plans are to also deal with unloading and loading of containers. This is a complex business and initially will be limited parts of these processes will be covered. The system will be developed further. Possibly, the GCT and Gislen Software also jointly market the system to other potential customers.



Some containers are manufactured in Asia and are delivered with cargo to Europe before they are sold. Here is a full batch of containers which has been received and unloaded and are ready for sale.



About Gislen Software

Ever since its founding in 1994, Gislen Software has focused on being a premium Software Outsourcing partner. With a Swedish founder and Managing Director and a staff team who have worked with European clients for many years, the company is a very competitive option for European clients looking for high quality service at a competitive price. Unlike most Indian Software Companies, Gislen Software specialises in Requirement Engineering, while still having staff with a strong technical skill-set. Staff who are assigned to work with foreign customers are trained not only in foreign culture, but also on how to overcome the cultural challenges so prevalent in near/offshore business relationships. Gislen Software also ensures that Indian staff communicates well in English. In addition, methodologies used by the company are customer focused and straightforward. Diagrams and screen design prototypes are often used to make it easier for both Customers and Indian developers to grasp early on what the final product will look like.

Gislen Software is a cost effective, high quality solutions provider. Gislen Software employs Business Analysts and technically skilled people to ensure the work we do is world class. The company currently has expertise in the following areas:

- Requirement Engineering
- Microsoft C#/VB.Net
- Java/J2EE
- C/C++
- Borland Delphi
- Database Solutions
- Advanced Web based applications in .NET, Java and PHP and AJAX
- Embedded systems

The company offers complete Software Services and has worked in various domains such as: Medical Technology, Public Transportation, Market Research, Logistics, Asset Management, Document Management and Project Management. As a spin-off of our consulting work, Gislen Software has also developed a product, Planner Suite, which is a holistic Project Management and Time Reporting tool.

The company has an experienced, multi-cultural management team, and Swedish, Norwegian, Indian and Canadian owners. Gislen Software is a Microsoft Certified Partner and is a ISO 9001:2000 TickIT certified company.

Case studies and/or references

On our website www.gislen.com you can find more case studies. If you want to speak to any of the references please contact us and we will give you contact details.

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In short...

GCT Container Depot assessed a range of finished commercial standard products, but chose to develop a system from scratch using Gislen Software. Together with the GCT, we have developed a complete system that supports most of the functions needed to manage a container terminal.

Our team has done the following:

- Requirement Analysis
- Architecture and Design
- Software development in Delphi and Dot Net and with Microsoft Reporting Services
- Quality Assurance
- Installation over the Internet
- Support over the Internet

Conclusions

Gislen Software provides a complete service for GCT. Gislen Software has both expertise and experience needed to provide high quality professional solutions, which helps GCT to manage all depot services with high quality, good control and low total cost.

Magnus Niblick, Depot Manager at GCT says: Gislen Software has helped us to get our containers through a lot of interest for me as a customer. Service was personal and we have built a good relationship. Their interest and understanding of our requirements are unique.

I can truly recommend Gislen software!

