Mesquite Independent School District Uses Progress® OpenEdge® Pro2™ to Streamline Data Reporting for 3,000 Teachers, Campus Staff and Administrators

CASE STUDY

COMPANY
Mesquite Independent School District

INDUSTRY
Education

PRODUCT
Progress® OpenEdge®

COUNTRY
United States

SUMMARY
Mesquite Independent School District sought one to simplify database management and data reporting tasks. The district's system administrators worked alongside Skyward to use its database management capabilities, which Progress® OpenEdge® powers to enable easier data querying, searching, pulling and reporting capabilities for numerous end users, including teachers and campus staff.

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> **Lane King**
> Director of Information Systems, Mesquite Independent School District

Challenge

Encompassing 52 different schools in the Northeast region of Texas, the Mesquite Independent School District (ISD) is dedicated to educating close to 40,000 students across several grades. As such, the Mesquite ISD requires top-of-the-line software and hardware to keep things running smoothly for students but also for those working on the backend, including system administrators, developers and IT professionals.

Lane King, Director of Information Systems at Mesquite ISD, has said the district "has always been on the cutting edge of technology" and has been a part of three significant database solution changes. Its last one, Crystal, was used to manage its extensive database and systems, until 2014 when the solution eventually went to its end-of-life cycle.

King and other system administrators began researching solutions to help store and manage system data that also provide robust reporting capabilities. Since the district's systems encompass several unique data sets, users require a tool to help obtain it quickly. Additionally, King spoke about the data reporting requirements set by the state.

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Solution

Since the system administrators at Mesquite ISD had previously worked with SQL databases, King wanted to find a solution to match the skillsets of the team. King and his team began discussing solutions with Skyward, a school database management software company, and discovered Progress® OpenEdge® Pro2.

After Skyward deployed OpenEdge, King and his team created a link server, which connected to various information ports—ranging from on-campus related data, such

In one use case of OpenEdge Pro2, the system administrators have increased accessibility and usability. For example, they can pull data from various sets, querying or searching for it via the SQL Server Management Studio. Additionally, the staff can take this data and send it back to requesters much easier.

Lane politely declined when asked if they would change their solution choice, as his organization reliably uses OpenEdge's Pro2 for replication to SQL server to manage its ever-growing database efficiently.

"If we didn't have Pro2, I think we would be stuck. We rely too much on SQL to go another direction," says Lane. "We'd have to find something that would replicate that data so we could report on it accurately. I can't say what would've happened in the past, but I can tell you we probably wouldn't be where we are today without it."

About Mesquite Independent School District

Located in east Dallas County, Texas, Mesquite ISD welcomes over 38,000 students everyday through the doors of our 51 campuses, including 33 elementary schools, nine middle schools, five high comprehensive schools, Vanguard High School and the Mesquite Academy.

For more information, visit: www.mesquiteisd.org

as staff information, to more business-focused ones, like financial systems. They received an improved insight into what happens within these parts of the system.

Mesquite ISD was also able to better serve students, teachers, guardians and administrators. Information from the database needed to be used by those groups and a 3rd party vendor while respecting the private nature of the data. Mesquite ISD's system administrators created "views" to allow access to information deemed pertinent for users without compromising social security numbers and other private information. This became an extra layer of security around student information.

Results

System administrators with Mesquite ISD have been utilizing OpenEdge Pro2 to effectively manage their database, which helps make several data-related jobs more streamlined.

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