

# **SOFTOOLS**

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# IDEAS ACCELERATOR<sup>TM</sup>

# **VISION**

'To accelerate business performance across the business through the capture and implementation of best practice Ideas in process and technology'

# **SOLUTION**

The Softools Ideas Accelerator is a business app running in a secure and scalable web platform that enables an organisation and its supply chain to identify, share and embed best practice ideas – all with the blessing of the CTO.

# IDEA



Identify business challenges Generate ideas for improvement Classify each idea against standard criteria

# **DEVELOP**



Confirm the performance Improvement Potential PIP Search the internal database of proven ideas Use AI to identify industry best practices Confirm the best idea

# **EXECUTE**



Gain support from Coaches and SMEs Develop a plan with tasks and status Capture the before and after state Submit for approval

# **APPROVE**



Confirm the idea has achieved its PIP Identify and tag Best Practices Replicate the idea in other teams Submit originator for an Award



The Softools platform can also integrate with emerging AI Artificial Intelligence services and models that search the existing database of ideas and create industry-defined improvement ideas...

"Imagine... being able to create a culture of continuous improvement that captures, shares and embeds best practices based on emerging thinking and technologies"



# CASE STUDY



# 'I-CARD' IDEAS ACCELERATOR

# **CONTEXT**

Coca-Cola Japan Bottlers Inc. (CCBJI) is the largest and most successful bottling business in Japan – serving the needs of the 125M population from over 100 manufacturing operations and distribution outlets with a dedicated workforce of over 6,000.

# **CHALLENGE - KAIZEN**

The existing Kaizen (continuous change) process relied on Excel to capture and share DX Digital Transformation and improvement ideas as 'I-cards'. The challenge was to deliver a system that would: enable ideas capture on mobile phones, allow teams to work offline, reduce the monthly reporting workload, and facilitate the sharing of best practices.

# **SOLUTION**

"Softools enabled us to design, build and deploy an advanced web platform for our Kaizen Continuous Improvement program across all manufacturing operations and distribution centers in Japan. The solution gives us the visibility and control we need to drive and share improvements across the business – all without needing any IT resources"

Bruce Herbert, Supply Chain Director, CCBJI

In order to maintain their position as the innovative market leader in Japan, CCBJI are committed to a program of Supply Chain & Operational Excellence based on the principles and tools of Kaizen combined with Digital Transformation, and they now have a dedicated team of Softools App Builders working across all functions.

# **OUTCOMES**

CCBJI now has a central database of all improvement ideas generated by and accessible to all operating plants in their supply chain enabling them to:

- Build a culture of continuous improvement in their DNA
- Accelerate the adoption of new technologies
- Identify, share and adopt best industry practices
- Drive their quarterly and annual awards process



# Why Softools?

# Speed

Softools is the **fastest** and **simplest** digital platform to build and deploy custom business apps – *and without* the need for IT involvement

"Subject Matter Experts and Managers can build apps on Softools without any coding knowledge"

# Capability

Softools deliver simple and complex solutions (enterprise grade) in tight time-scales & budgets – secure, mobile, offline

# Value

A single user license provides unlimited access to off-the-shelf and custom-built apps



# **SOFTOOLS DIGITAL PLATFORM**

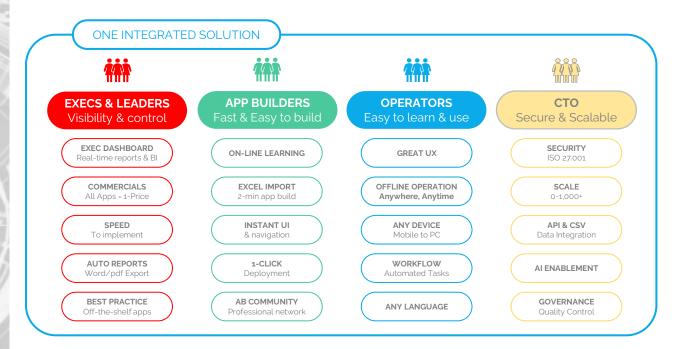
Digital Application Platform
running in the Cloud - enabling the
Digital Transformation (DX) of core
business processes. Softools
hosted apps are immediately
secure, can operate on any device,
integrate with Enterprise Systems,
and users can operate offline anywhere anytime, any place.





# Digital Apps "by the business, for the business"

While many web app platforms offer advanced features, Softools is the only digital platform built for use by non-technical resources that enables all core features in one integrated platform.



BUSINESS LEADERS in all sectors & functions need visibility and control over their areas of operation, and the confidence that their teams are consistently adopting industry best practices.

This necessitates that processes have been mapped, optimized and digitized in 'apps', and that data in all critical areas is captured and presented real-time on reports and dashboards.

They also need to ensure that investment in software is optimized and aligned to the business strategy and tech roadmap.

### SOFTOOLS APP

**BUILDERS** don't need IT or coding skills - they are people who understand business processes. Our no code platform enables them to deliver solutions for the business FAST.

Complex functions including UI design, database linking and the technical deployment to a secure web hosting platform are all automated at the click of a button.

App Builders will also become part of a professional network drawn from all functions who are responsible for Digital Transformation in their businesses.

# USERS & OPERATORS are

constantly seeking tools that make their jobs easier and more compliant with internal and industry standards.

They want applications that reflect their ways of working and that are quick and easy to use on any device from PC and Tablet to Mobiles.

They also want as many tasks as possible to be automated using workflow so they can focus on value-added tasks.

International companies also need operators and supply chain to be able to work in any language. CTO & IT Teams are increasingly excited by the potential of no-code platforms as they bring agility to the business without pulling on finite IT resources. IT leaders can provide vetted platforms to the business that comply with security, can scale and are interoperable.

This accelerates the rate that processes can be digitized by 25x, and has a dramatic impact on the challenge posed by Shadow IT.

Once a process has be digitized, data can be linked to enterprise data via APIs to create a more complete view of organization wide





# **About Our Technology**



### ACCESS

Access to the platform is via any modern browser (Edge, Chrome, Safari, & Firefox). The platform is mobile-optimised and so can be accessed on any device from PCs and tablets to Smartphones. The platform is based on 'progressive web' technology and can therefore be used offline.

# **APPS COMPLEXITY**

Applications can range from simple list-based standalone apps (e.g. Risk Register), to complex apps (e.g. Supply Chain Assessment) that are linked together, driven by workflow and synchronised to 3<sup>rd</sup> party systems via Softools published APIs.

# **APP BUILD**

Certified App Builders learn in hours using the online ABC training program and use the integral AppStudio to design, configure and deploy apps using a systematic 8-step process in hours and with zero coding.

# **BUSINESS CONTINUITY**

The platform is used by many of the world's leading organisations and Governments, and so data is always held in a secure encrypted environment, controlled by clients and exported at any time.

# **DATA INPUT**

Data Import using CSV or API is used to complete a oneoff migration during set-up. Data is then entered into the platform in 3 ways: 1) manual data input, 2) export / import via csv, and 3) real-time data synchronisation with 3<sup>rd</sup> party systems via WebHooks / APIs.

# **DATA VALIDATION**

Data field options and logic based on field type will automatically validate that data is consistent and complete. Specific fields can be set to be mandatory. Specific input forms can be visible or hidden using workflow based on user team or field values.

# **INFRASTRUCTURE**

The platform is deployed in a web hosted multi-tenant environment. Our hosting partner world-wide is MS Azure and so deployments are instantly secure, scalable and stable.

### **INTEGRATION**

The Softools API is a JSON-based (JavaScript Object Notation) RESTful API with authentication via API Keys. Single Sign-On and MFA is also be Supported.

# LANGUAGES

The platform can be configured to run in multiple languages using pure translations or via the built in browser translate features. This allows users in different regions & countries to work on a common platform in their own language. It is also possible for App Builders to 'hard code' all system labels in local languages.

# PERFORMANCE

Speed of access is fast due to the offline capability that allows saving and pulling data from the browser cache. Saving to the server is determined by the bandwidth of local wireless & wired network connections or via 3G & 4G mobile networks.

### SCALE

The platform can scale from 1 app and user to 1,000s of apps and over 1,000,000 users for a single client.

### **SECURITY**

Access to the platform is on a named user basis which determines what a user can see (security) and what they can do (permissions). Single Sign-On (SSO) is available as an option. Softools hold ISO 27001 and UK Cyber Essentials certifications.

# **SUPPORT**

Users gain first line support from on-screen help. Second line support is provided by internal client Administrators. Third line support is provided to certified Administrators via phone, email and WebEx against strict SLAs.

# **TRAINING**

Users, Administrators and App Builders are trained via webinars or in workshops using an 'action learning' approach:

Level 1 - Basic User (2 hours)

Level 2 - Super-Users / Administrators (+2 hours)

Level 3 – Site Administrators (+2 hours)

Level 4 - Basic App Builders (+ 1 day), and

**Level 5** – Advanced App Builders (+ 2 days)





