Department of Health and Welfare
Project: Mariner Replacement

The department’s Information Technology Services Division (ITSD) currently deploys a COTS software package named Mariner (Serena Software) to track project tasks against accounting codes. When originally purchased, the division intended to use the software’s full functionality as a Project Portfolio Management tool. That decision has changed, leaving us with a complex tool, which is overkill for our needs.

The division is prepared to invest in an “in-house” solution to replace Mariner, scaling the functionality down to that of a basic Project Cost Management package. The package would provide the division with the ability to track and maintain project management data at a very high level of detail, and focus on two main areas; accountability for schedule and maintaining an accurate budget.

Users of the system include ITSD managers (Project, Resource, and Relationship) who use the program to create accounting codes (PCA) and code descriptions; create, view and edit projects; create and assign high-level project tasks; run reports and create charts; and approve time submittals. Other users include developers and testers who are assigned work, and input time investments at both the project and task levels.

Managers will need the ability to view both user and resource status information in the system. They will also need the ability to track work progress by account, resource (individuals and teams), and by dates. Administrators will need to be able to create and access full audit logs of transactions.

The new system would need to have a Browser-based UI compatible with IE and Firefox for its presentation layer. Specifically, we are interested in a .NET solution for maintainability reasons. On the back end, the data level, the system must use a SQL database (SQL 2008 or greater) and provide support for email notifications and alerts. ITSD utilizes Business Objects for data mining, so an interface between the database and BO will be part of the application design. A data export capability to MS Excel and/or PDF will also be needed.

A role-based security is necessary for this system, providing a customizable Admin, Manager, Super User, User, and Read Only access model. Integration with Active Directory that allows support for both AD individuals and groups is needed. If possible, we would like to extend that model to creating role-based dashboard templates for reporting and charting.

Finally, if possible the system architecture should provide the ability to interface between it and internal data warehouses within ITSD, as well as having the capability to directly export to our state time accounting system.